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BARON COHEN PULLS OUT HIS MOST SHOCKING ALTER-EGO YET PAGE 20

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Tories roll out long-term cabinet

KATIE TURNER
katie.turner@metronews.ca

Premier Alison Redford has introduced some new members to her cabinet and shuffled around a few familiar faces.

Fresh off her majority victory in Alberta's provincial ballot last month, Redford rolled out her 19-member ministerial team during a formal announcement inside the Alberta Legislature Tuesday.

"Going forward, we will demonstrate beyond a doubt, this government will be the change Albertans are looking for," she said. "We have listened to Albertans and this new cabinet and structure will allow us to focus on the things that are most important to Albertans."

Among the highlights are a promotion for outgoing Education Minister Thomas Lukaszuk, who will now serve as deputy premier.

As well, Treasury Board President Doug Horner will retain the position and also add the finance portfolio. Fred Horne will remain on as health minister.

New to the cabinet will be former Calgary alderman and mayoral candidate Ric McIver as he takes on the transportation portfolio, while former president of Alberta Health Services Ken Hughes will be the new minister of energy.

Former infrastructure minister Jeff Johnson will replace Lukaszuk in education.

More coverage, page 4

Alberta Premier Alison Redford holds a press conference with her new cabinet team after the swearing-in at the Government House on Tuesday. JASON FRANSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Debit could be a parking plus

Tired of looking deep in your pockets for change in order to park your vehicle? Well, Calgarians may soon be able to pay for their parking spot by using their debit card PAGE 3

Freebies in the Big Apple

Five attractions in New York City that won't break the bank PAGE 26

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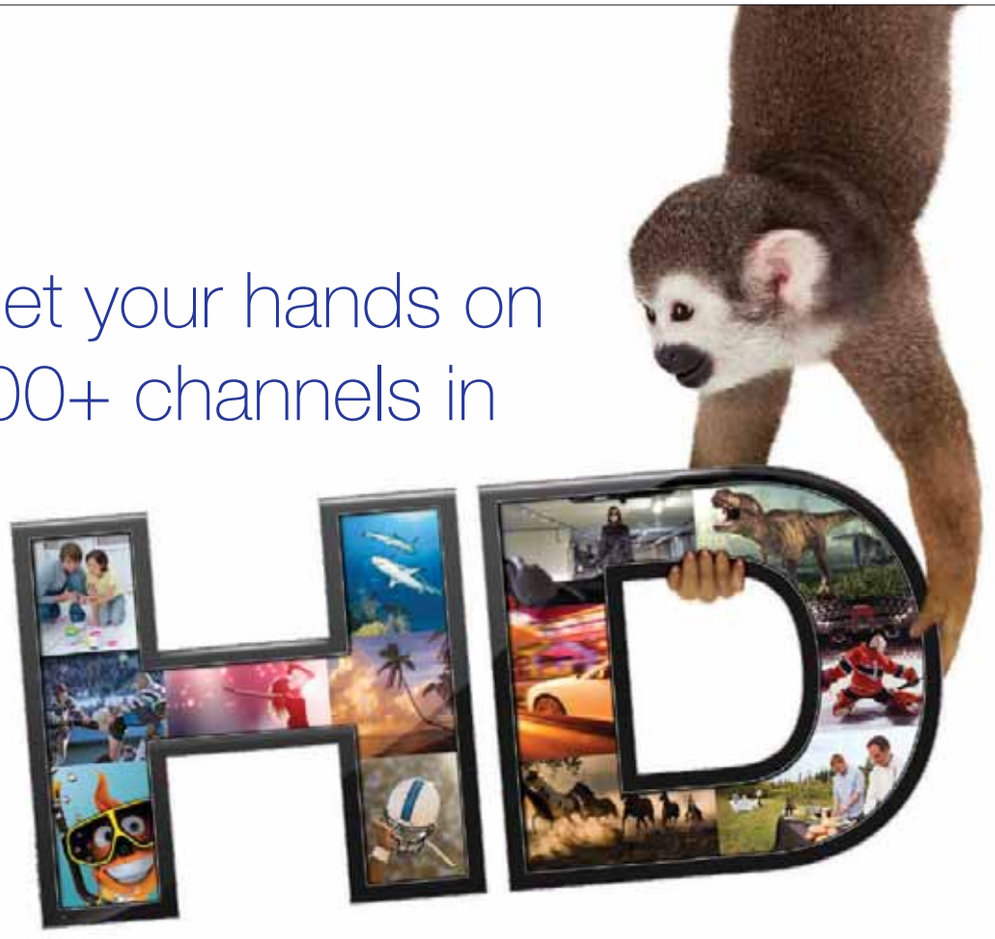

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Debit option floated for ParkPlus machines

Analysis. Feasibility study could be launched in coming months to evaluate debit transactions

JEREMY NOLAIS
jeremy.nolais@metronews.ca

Rather than fumbling for change or racking up credit-card bills, Calgarians may soon be able to swipe their debit card to pay for parking.

The Calgary Parking Authority is in the process of commissioning a feasibility study on retrofitting automated ParkPlus machines to accept debit transactions.

"This would be just one more feature added for our customers," said authority manager Troy McLeod. "It would likely be something we introduce first in our parkades."

Currently, ParkPlus customers rely on coinage, credit cards and an automated cellphone pay system to buy time in downtown stalls. Even with the debit option, McLeod said the cellphone account is a frequent parker's best bet because it allows for refunds to be granted to motorists who over-estimate their parking stay.

Downtown parking customers were divided on whether a debit pay option would change their daily parking routine.

After repeatedly digging through her coin purse while attempting to fill a ParkPlus metre near Gulf Canada Square earlier this week, delivery-service worker Agatha Szczepancka said she would far prefer a simple debit-card swipe.

"I use my debit for everything," she said on her way to drop off a package.

But Hoydi Cheng, a project manager who works in the downtown core, said he relies on his credit card for most expenses, including parking.

"Why would I use debit when I have a credit card?" he said. "It's quick and easy."

It's likely the parking authority will go through a feasibility study regarding debit payments later this year before deciding whether to roll out a pilot project at a few select lots, McLeod said.

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To pay for parking with your cell phone visit ParkPlus.
Machine is alarmed and monitored at all times.
PRESS TO START
If this pay machine is out of order please use another machine
Backspace
25¢
$1
FLAT TIRE? DEAD BATTERY?

Debit cards like this could be accepted in Calgary ParkPlus machines in the future. JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

The stats

According to the Calgary Parking Authority, 35 per cent of customers rely on coins to fill ParkPlus metres, while the rest turn to credit cards and cellphone pay accounts.

- Manager Troy McLeod said it would cost $3,000 to $4,000 to retrofit each ParkPlus machine with debit-card capabilities.
- Last year, the Calgary Parking Authority refunded more than $3 million to parkers who over-estimated their parking stay using a cellphone pay account.
- Comparison data provided to Metro suggests the Calgary Parking Authority maintains parking at rates 15 to 20 per cent cheaper than local competitors.

1 NEWS

On the web

Peruvian scientists puzzled over marine-life deaths

Scientists in Peru are puzzled after nearly 900 dolphins and 4,450 pelicans were found dead on beaches in the northern part of the country. Watch at metronews.ca

Mobile news

Would you stop buying soda pop if it cost more? A recent report in the U.S. is proposing a tax on sugary drinks and a price cut on healthier choices. Scan the code for the story.

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Nenshi satisfied with McIver at transportation helm

Long history. McIver came in second to Nenshi in the last mayoral election

KATIE TURNER
katie.turner@metronews.ca

Although recently elected MLA Ric McIver was once Mayor Naheed Nenshi's closest competition in the 2010 municipal election, the mayor said he's looking forward to working with his former rival.

McIver, a former alderman, was elected as the Calgary-Hays representative in the April 23 provincial election. On Tuesday, Premier Alison Redford appointed McIver minister of transportation.

Nenshi said he's confident no one better understands the need to complete the southwest ring road and the southeast transitway than the former Ward 12 representative.

"Importantly, the two largest priorities for the city are in south Calgary, and to have a south Calgary MLA who understands those issues really well I think can only be a bonus," he said.

Nenshi said working with McIver won't be awkward and they have spoken many times since the 2010 election and the provincial election.

"At the end of the day, it's not about the relationship with the minister and the mayor, it's about the relationship between the city and the ministry, and that relationship will only strengthen, I think, by having a Calgarian in that position."

Before the provincial election, Nenshi conducted a survey of the political parties and concluded a southeast LRT would be built fastest under Wildrose rule.

"Well, (McIver will) certainly be motivated to prove me wrong, won't he?" Nenshi joked. "And I'll be happy to be proven wrong."

McIver could not be reached for comment as of press time.

City dialogue

- Municipal Affairs Minister Doug Griffiths will maintain his role, which Nenshi said will benefit Calgary in moving toward creating a city charter.
- "I'm looking forward to some fast action on some very key issues, including starting our conversation ... on the new relationship and the city charters," the mayor said.

Mayor Naheed Nenshi speaks to the media on Tuesday after Premier Alison Redford unveiled the new cabinet. TESSA CLAYTON/FOR METRO

Redford cabinet

- **Alison Redford, Calgary-Elbow:** premier
- **Thomas Lukaszuk, Edmonton-Castle Downs:** deputy premier
- **Doug Horner, Spruce Grove-St. Albert:** president of Treasury Board, minister of finance
- **David Hancock, Edmonton-Whitemud:** minister of human services
- **Cal Dallas, Red Deer South:** minister of international and intergovernmental relations
- **Diana McQueen, Drayton Valley-Devon:** minister of environment and sustainable resource development
- **Fred Horne, Edmonton-Rutherford:** minister of health
- **Ken Hughes, Calgary West:** minister of energy
- **Jeff Johnson, Athabasca-Sturgeon-Redwater:** minister of education
- **Verlyn Olson, Wetaskiwin-Camrose:** minister of agriculture and rural development
- **Jonathan Denis, Calgary-Acadia:** minister of justice and solicitor general
- **Doug Griffiths, Battle River-Wainwright:** minister of municipal affairs
- **Robin Campbell, West Yellowhead:** minister of aboriginal relations
- **Heather Klimchuk, Edmonton-Glenora:** minister of culture
- **Manmeet Bhullar, Calgary-Greenway:** minister of Service Alberta
- **Wayne Drysdale, Grande Prairie-Wapiti:** minister of infrastructure
- **Stephen Khan, St. Albert:** minister of enterprise and advanced education
- **Ric McIver, Calgary-Hays:** minister of transportation
- **Christine Cusanelli, Calgary-Currie:** minister of tourism, parks and recreation

Police plead for help as funeral set for hit-and-run victim

Eleasha Wesley CONTRIBUTED

Family, friends and peers prepared to pay their final respects to a young Calgary-area hit-and-run victim on Tuesday as police issued a new plea for information about the driver.

Eleasha Evangeline Wesley, a 10-year-old student from Morley, was thrown from her family's Grand Am on the Trans-Canada Highway last Thursday after it was struck from behind. She was not wearing her seatbelt.

The driver of the vehicle that hit them, a Kia Sedona, initially fled the scene. The vehicle has since been recovered by police.

The difficulty now, police Sgt. Colin Foster says, lies in determining who was driving the Sedona at the time of the collision. On Tuesday, he appealed to the person to come forward to police.

"I have said this before with collisions: I will find you," Foster said.

An online obituary said Wesley's funeral will take place on Thursday at the community gymnasium on the Morley reserve west of Calgary.

Family members could not be reached for comment, but the obituary describes Wesley as a girl with many hobbies.

"She was a sweet, lovable girl who always had a smile on her face, with a silly sense of humour that was contagious to everyone around her," it said.

Wesley was a Grade 4 student at Exshaw School. A statement provided to Metro by principal Paula Hanson said counselling has been offered to her peers.

"The staff at Exshaw School will be working with their students to help them find ways to share their stories about Eleasha and to help them understand their feelings of grief for a special classmate and friend," Hanson said.

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

Search continues

- Police Sgt. Colin Foster said the suspect pool has been narrowed to three. Police have received more than a dozen anonymous tips from the public, but Foster said the investigation needs someone to go on the record.
- Exshaw School is accepting donations on behalf of Eleasha Wesley's family.

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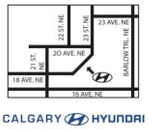

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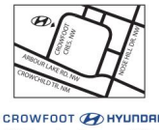

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Spring trapping ends. Canmore bunnies spared

Some of Canmore's feral rabbits. BILL GRAVELAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Out-of-control feral rabbits, once at risk of being put to death in an Alberta mountain community, may end up living "hoppily" ever after.

Canmore, a picturesque town located 110 kilometres west of Calgary on the eastern edge of Banff National Park, made international headlines and faced the wrath of animal lovers last year for its plan to destroy about 2,000 rabbits.

But an update by the town on its feral-rabbit management plan indicates that the trapping of the critters ran from January until the end of March and 213 rabbits were successfully sterilized and are now living in a local rabbit sanctuary. THE CANADIAN PRESS

May cause illness, death

RCMP issue tainted street-drug warning

Tainted ecstasy pills blamed for the deaths of more than a dozen people in Alberta since last year may have surfaced in Penticton, B.C. Police confirm the drugs are being sold on the street. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mustard Seed

New CEO announced

Dr. Lyall Thomson accepted the top position at The Mustard Seed on Tuesday. "I'm grateful for the opportunity that The Mustard Seed provides me to serve those in need on a full-time basis," he said in a news release. METRO

East Village. $75-million Hilton hotel announced

The East Village announced Tuesday a 14-storey Hilton Hotel will be constructed in the community, marking a $75-million investment.

Located on the corner of 7th Avenue and 4th Street Southeast the proposed project, known as East Village Hilton, will be a 315-room, 208,000-square-foot, full-service hotel with a rooftop terrace, pool and fitness centre. It will also have a library, convention services and two levels of underground parking.

American real-estate developer Widewaters Group will see to its construction.

Calgary Municipal Land Corp. president and CEO Michael Brown said the new hotel will be a great addition to the East Village, which is undergoing significant redevelopment.

"This project is a great compliment to the multi-family projects currently underway in East Village," said Brown. METRO

Work continued Tuesday to snuff out a fire at Calgary Metal Recycling. Flames were no longer visible, but smoke could still be spotted. CANDICE WARD/FOR METRO

End may be near for Ogden fire

Bottom line. Businesses in the area of the blaze report a drop in sales

TESSA CLAYTON
calgary@metronews.ca

Calgary fire crews started tackling the hottest part of a long-standing fire at Calgary Metal Recycling on Tuesday.

Deputy Chief Len MacCharles said crews were moving cooled material away to lessen the fuel level available. They also began hitting the hottest spots with foam and water.

The blaze started at the end of April at 3415 Odgen Road Southeast and has proven difficult to manage in recent days.

MacCharles didn't have a timeline as to when the fire may be totally extinguished and roads closed as a precaution in the area reopened.

Garry Poelzer, RONA store manager of the Ogden location, said while the majority of his business hasn't been directly affected by the closures, retail sales have decreased.

"More than anything, it affects our delivery-route access … because we can't access Ogden Road South; therefore, we don't have quick, easy access to Barlow Trail, which is our major artery to the south," he said.

He welcomed news that the fire was reaching its final days.

"It would be ideal to have it over some time this week, the sooner the better," Poelzer said.

Ogden Road from Bonnybrook Road to 38 Street Southeast has been closed for more than a week. The fire's cause is still under investigation.

Quoted

"It would be ideal to have it over some time this week. The sooner, the better." Garry Poelzer, RONA store manager

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Youth Singers hum a tune of gratitude

Renovations. Funding fears subside thanks to private donations

CELESTE DE MUELENAERE
calgary@metronews.ca

Members of a renowned Calgary youth singing group are humming a new tune thanks to support from private donors.

Crippling financial woes threatened to shut down the Youth Singers of Calgary, a performance arts organization that helps provide a safe outlet for expression for youths.

A significant presence in the performing arts community since 1985, Youth Singers of Calgary was squeezed out of their old headquarters due to expansion of the Stampede grounds.

Saddled with a hefty $1.8-million renovation bill at their new location, the organization was in danger of closing its doors for good.

But artistic director and CEO of Youth Singers, Shirley Penner, said, despite the lack of help from municipal or federal government, the organization has managed to dig itself out of financial turmoil.

"We're still hoping to get some help one day from Calgary, but we have gotten lots of help from Calgarians on a private basis," she said. "Youth Singers and their memberships and their connections have raised all the money."

Thanks to very generous anonymous donations, including a $250,000 donation last November, Youth Singers only has about $100,000 of their deficit left to go, said Penner.

She added the group's funding deficit hasn't impacted its calendar. This Sunday, Youth Singers is hosting a performance, Museo, that will include a live auction to continue the groups fundraising efforts.

Joann Reynolds, communications manager for Calgary Arts Development Authority, said the Youth Singers are a significant part of the fabric of arts and culture in the city.

Emergency kit must-haves

Cara Katterhagen, communication strategist with the Calgary Emergency Management Agency, shows off what everyone should have in their 72-hour emergency kit. This week marks Emergency Preparedness Week and will conclude on May 12 with Disaster Alley, a free family event at the Fire Training Academy. CANDICE WARD/FOR METRO

Racial vandalism. Calgary woman no longer feels safe living in her community

After waking up last week to find her car had been the target of racist vandalism, a Calgary woman is planning to leave her community — and possibly the city.

Antonia Mohamed went to her car, which was parked near her condo, last Wednesday morning on her way to work and found the N-word had been scratched into her vehicle.

"I was born and raised here in Calgary and I've experienced minor bouts of racism and comments and stuff like that, so it's really not surprising," she said.

No longer feeling safe in her community, Mohamed said she's currently looking for a new place to live.

"I've travelled the world ... and I've had nothing but positive experiences but somehow, when I come back to my supposed home, I get a lot of negative comments," she said.

"It just makes me feel like this isn't my home. Unfortunately, I don't think I'll stay."

Executive director of Alberta Civil Liberties Research Centre Linda McKay-Panos said it's disheartening to hear of such an incident when her group is constantly working towards anti-racism education.

"This to me is out-and-out racial discrimination," she said.

"It is quite reasonable for a person who's had that happen to them to not feel particularly safe where they live."

KATIE TURNER/METRO

Reaction

- **Lack of support.** Mohamed said no witnesses have come forward.
- **Damage done.** The damage to her vehicle, which is on all four sides and the hood of the car is estimated at $3,000.
- **Out of sight, not mind.** She said she is unable to pay for it to be fixed at the moment and has covered the racial slurs with a plastic bag.

Calgary police Chief Rick Hanson addresses a crowd on hand to celebrate the force's school resource officer program Tuesday. CELESTE DE MUELENAERE/FOR METRO

In honour. SROs recognized for work with at-risk youth

The Calgary Police Service brought out bagpipes, cupcakes and a jazz band in celebration of the 35th anniversary of its school resource officers program Tuesday.

Police Chief Rick Hanson, alongside Calgary Board of Education Chief Supt. Naomi Johnson and Calgary Catholic School District Chief Supt. Gary Strother, recognized former and current school-based officers, dubbed SROs.

Hanson acknowledged the valuable support that SROs provide to students, especially as an outreach service focused on early intervention. A job not everyone can do, he said.

Const. Carlamay Blight, an SRO at Centennial High School said the work is rewarding and provides a positive presence for troubled youths who otherwise would have nowhere to turn.

The SRO program provides services to students who demonstrate high-risk behaviours helping them before they make bad decisions, said Hanson.

"Because a lot of it is preventable if we intervene early," he added.

Mayor Naheed Nenshi also made an appearance at Tuesday's event.

"This is a really important program because it represents a partnership between Calgary Police and the City of Calgary with the two school boards," he said.

"And it's a program that works really well."

"Prevention is the best use of police resources," Nenshi added.

CELESTE DE MUELENAERE/FOR METRO

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Rush at Tim Hortons.
Tiny newborn arrives on the double-double

They could name her "Timbit."

Staff at a Tim Hortons outlet in Windsor are used to serving double-doubles — but delivering a baby was an entirely different experience.

Restaurant manager Aaron Hayes says a woman entered the coffee shop Tuesday, saying she was expecting a baby soon and didn't feel well.

Staff were soon gathering towels, and one of them, Judy Glenn, helped the woman deliver her daughter in the women's washroom.

Hayes says a 911 dispatcher also helped by giving instructions over the phone.

Minutes later, EMS arrived to take the woman and the baby girl to hospital.

"The lady's OK. The baby's OK," Hayes said.

Hayes, a father himself, said Glenn also has children so she had some idea of what to expect. She was given the rest of the day off. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tasty at Tim's

Timbits were introduced by Tim Hortons in April 1976. "Bit" is an acronym for Big In Taste.

Teens targeted

Tory MP wants to ban that tan

Conservative MP James Bezan is pushing for age limits on tanning beds.

His private member's bill would ban the use of tanning beds and booths by people under 18. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Funeral goes on

His Craigslist ad seeks lost ashes

Blake Williams advertised on Craigslist in B.C. after losing his brother-in-law's ashes. The bag fell out of Williams' car on the way to the funeral. Saanich police are helping to locate the bag. METRO IN VANCOUVER

'Together they did this ... together they are guilty'

Tori's mother, Tara McDonald, walks into court in London, Ont., on Tuesday with partner James Goris and a friend. DAVE CHIDLEY/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Tori Stafford killing. Michael Rafferty and Terri-Lynne McClintic were both involved in events, Crown says

Michael Rafferty was no innocent bystander in the abduction, rape and murder of eight-year-old Victoria Stafford, court heard Tuesday.

Rafferty was the one in control of the events of April 8, 2009, from start to finish, the Crown said in its closing submissions at his first-degree murder trial.

The assertion is in stark contrast to the defence closing arguments, in which Rafferty's lawyer, Dirk Derstine, suggested Terri-Lynne McClintic was the engine behind Tori's killing, and Rafferty had no idea what she was up to.

But Crown attorney Kevin Gowdey told the jury in London, Ont.: "Michael Rafferty and Terri-Lynne McClintic were in this together. Together they did this to Tori Stafford. Together they are guilty."

McClintic, who is already serving a life sentence after pleading guilty to first-degree murder, testified that Rafferty urged her to kidnap a young girl, that he raped the girl, and that pent-up rage from her own childhood traumas caused McClintic to snap and murder Tori.

That testimony marked a change from what she told police for years — that Rafferty was the one who killed Tori with a hammer.

Rafferty, 31, has pleaded not guilty to first-degree murder, sexual assault causing bodily harm and kidnapping. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Defence's view

Terri-Lynne McClintic "perjured herself over and over and over again."

Dirk Derstine, Rafferty's lawyer

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Ukraine summit boycotted by leaders

Taking a stand.
Heads of state show their disapproval of treatment of ex-PM

Supporters of former Ukrainian prime minister Yulia Tymoshenko protest outside the jail in Kharkiv, Ukraine, Tuesday. The sign at right reads, in Ukrainian, "Ukraine - Liberty." ALEXEY FURMAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ukraine on Tuesday was reduced to calling off a Central Europe regional summit after most heads of state boycotted it over the treatment of jailed former prime minister Yulia Tymoshenko.

The embarrassing move came after a dozen heads of state, including the German and Czech presidents, refused to attend the Central and Eastern European summit to be held Friday and Saturday in the Crimean city of Yalta after Tymoshenko went on a hunger strike to protest an alleged beating by prison officials.

The Ukrainian Foreign Ministry said it decided to postpone the summit until a later date because of the leaders' inability to come.

Ukraine faces harsh Western pressure for the jailing and alleged mistreatment of Tymoshenko, with some politicians calling for boycotting the Euro 2012 football championship the country co-hosts in June.

The campaign to free and end the mistreatment of Tymoshenko has become a top human-rights issue for the European Union and has drawn comparisons with Western sanctions against Belarus, another former Soviet nation on the EU border. Its authoritarian president, Alexander Lukashenko, has cracked down on dissent and sent opposition leaders to jail. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. Lawmakers target therapy for homosexuality

A group of California lawmakers Tuesday weighed a first-of-its-kind ban on a controversial form of psychotherapy aimed at making gay people straight.

Supporters say the legislation, which is before its final committee, is necessary because such treatments are ineffective and harmful.

"This therapy can be dangerous," said the bill's author, Sen. Ted Lieu. He added the treatments can "cause extreme depression and guilt" that sometimes leads to suicide.

Conservative religious groups emphatically reject that view of sexual-orientation therapy and say the ban would interfere with parents' rights to seek appropriate psychological care for their children.

"While this is a direct assault on everyone's freedom, it is also a not-so-subtle attack on religious liberty," the National Association for Research and Therapy of Homosexuality said in a statement.

Lieu says attempts to pathologize and change people's sexual orientation should be treated akin to smoking and drinking: harmful activities that adults can choose to participate in, but children cannot.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Egypt

Military attacked journalists: Rights groups

Two media-rights groups condemned the Egyptian army for assaulting and arresting journalists who were covering a recent violent crackdown on antimilitary protests in Cairo.

Reporters Without Borders recorded 32 attacks on journalists during clashes last Friday. It said at least 20 reporters were assaulted or beaten and 11 injured. The Committee to Protect Journalists urged the military to investigate allegations that two journalists were "viciously beaten up by soldiers."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Netanyahu wins supermajority through alliance

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, left, speaks to Cabinet Secretary Zvi Hauser during a cabinet meeting in Jerusalem, Monday.
GALI TIBBON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Now backed by a parliamentary supermajority, Benjamin Netanyahu has tremendous room to manoeuvre on Israel's most pressing issues: peace with the Palestinians, possible war with Iran, and the growing rift at home between religious and secular Jews.

The stunning partnership with the opposition Kadima party, announced overnight Tuesday just as the nation was expecting him to call early elections, means the premier — if he so desires — can compromise with the Palestinians without being brought down by hard-line nationalists who had controlled his fate.

"A broad national unity government is good for security, good for the economy, good for the people of Israel," Netanyahu declared at a news conference with Kadima leader Shaul Mofaz, his new deputy prime minister.

With his coalition divided over a flurry of domestic issues, Netanyahu had declared in recent days that he would hold a parliamentary election in September, more than a year ahead of schedule. But as parliament convened late Monday to move toward elections, he and Mofaz were secretly wrapping up their power-sharing deal. Israelis were stunned to wake up Tuesday to a new political reality.

Netanyahu now heads a 94-member coalition, one of the broadest alliances in the 120-seat parliament in Israeli history — putting him in a strong position to push forward with new initiatives.

The outcome is also a life raft for Mofaz. Netanyahu had been widely expected to win the election by securing a majority of seats for his Likud and the religious and nationalist parties that are its natural — but pesky — allies. The opposition centre-left bloc was behind in the polls and appeared headed toward splintering into several medium-sized parties to boot.

For Israelis who felt alienated by the Netanyahu government there is now the prospect of a more moderate leadership no longer dependent on the extreme right.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Foiled bomb plot being investigated

Airport alert. Current technology would have spotted latest threat, officials say

Security systems

- FBI experts are picking apart that non-metallic device to see if it could have taken down an airplane.
- Though analysis of the device is incomplete, U.S. security officials said they remained confident in the security systems in place.

American explosive experts are dissecting a new-and-improved al-Qaida underwear bomb seized before it could blow up a U.S.-bound commercial airliner — but even as they work, the foiled terrorist plot has swiftly and predictably become political fodder.

The CIA and its overseas partners thwarted the attack following a covert Yemeni intelligence operation. Those behind the plot apparently hoped to take down a plane, but U.S. officials revealed Tuesday that the would-be bomber at the heart of the plot was actually an informant working for the CIA and Saudi Arabian intelligence.

The plot was foiled at around the same time as last week's first anniversary of Osama bin Laden's death at the hands of navy SEALs last year, but, contrary to initial reports, it was not timed to coincide with the anniversary.

The bomb was non-metallic and wouldn't have been detected by airport screening devices, officials say, but likely would have been picked up by body scanners. There were no changes planned for airport security measures in the U.S. as a result of the plot.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

He brought the Wild Things to life

In this 1985 photo, author Maurice Sendak poses with one of the characters from his book Where the Wild Things Are, designed for the operatic adaptation of his book. Among the most honoured and adored children's authors, he ranks with Dr. Seuss as a revolutionary force of the past half-century. He told stories for children that were actually about children, not just what adults wished them to be. He died Tuesday in Danbury, Conn., after suffering a stroke last week. For more on Sendak's impact, see Paul Sullivan's column in Voices, page 16. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

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Alleged dead-baby ring to get second look

China. South Korean customs officials say they have discovered 35 smuggling attempts of capsules disguised as stamina boosters

China will re-investigate allegations that Chinese-made drug capsules containing powdered remains of dead babies are being smuggled into South Korea, state media reported Tuesday.

Ministry of Health spokesman Deng Haihua said an investigation launched last August found no proof that such capsules were being manufactured in China, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

Some people believe the capsules can cure a variety of diseases.

Deng said in a statement that China would investigate again following new reports of such pills being smuggled into South Korea, Xinhua reported.

The statement was not posted on the ministry's website and calls to the ministry rang unanswered.

The Korea Customs Service said Monday it had seized capsules made in northeastern China from dead babies whose bodies were chopped into small pieces and dried on stoves before being turned into powder.

Deng said Chinese health departments would work with police, customs agencies and commerce authorities to investigate the latest claims, Xinhua said.

The South Korean customs agency began investigating after receiving a tip a year ago.

No sicknesses have been reported from ingesting the capsules.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Diplomatic friction

- Some people believe the capsules are a panacea for disease. However, they contain bacteria and other harmful ingredients.
- South Korean customs officials have refused to say where the dead babies came from or who made the capsules, citing possible diplomatic friction with Beijing.

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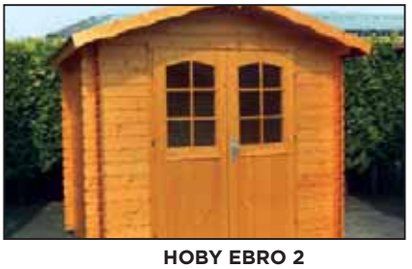
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A beef with U.S. meat imports

South Korean civic group members hold signs during a rally against the import of U.S. beef in Seoul on Tuesday, following the recently discovery of mad cow disease in the United States. The writing reads "Stop Imports."

LEE JIN-MAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

What's in a name? Just call him Tyrannosaurus Rex

The York News-Times reports that a man entered a Nebraska courtroom Monday as Tyler Gold and left with the moniker Tyrannosaurus Rex Joseph Gold.

Gold says in his public filing for the change that the dinosaur's name is cooler.

He says that "as an entrepreneur, name recognition is important and the new name is more recognizable." The newspaper report does not describe his line of business.

Judge Alan Gless asked Gold at Monday's hearing whether he wanted a new name so he could hide from creditors or law enforcement. Gold said no.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Casey Anthony

Lawyer releasing murder trial tell-all

Casey Anthony's lawyer is writing a book about her murder trial.

Attorney Jose Baez said Tuesday the book will be released in July. It is titled: Presume Guilty, Casey Anthony: The Inside Story.

Baez is promising the book will be about what happened off the record, and it will describe who the real Anthony is.

Anthony was acquitted in the killing of her two-year-old daughter, Caylee, in July in a trial that mesmerized observers. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Civil war feared as more violence adds to Syria's misery

Annan, Red Cross paint bleak picture.
Ambushes, bombings leave thousands in peril as they struggle to meet basic needs

International envoy Kofi Annan painted a bleak picture of Syria Tuesday, citing "unacceptable levels of violence and abuse."

World powers share a "profound concern" that Syria is descending into civil war, he said.

Nevertheless, nations remain committed to his six-point peace plan, he said.

And they have pledged to deploy 300 ceasefire monitors there by the end of the month. But the bloodshed hasn't ended.

Annan has been tasked by the United Nations and the Arab League with devising a solution to end Syrian President Bashar Assad's brutal crackdown on a popular uprising.

He spoke to reporters in Geneva after briefing a closed-door session of the UN Security Council in New York by video conference.

The Red Cross added to Annan's grim words, saying the Syrian conflict is transforming into a guerrilla war involving ambushes and bombings. It also warned that 1.5 million Syrians are struggling to meet basic needs.

Annan said the UN's ceasefire-monitoring mission "is the only remaining chance to stabilize" Syria.

Annan told the Security Council that "unacceptable levels of violence and abuse" are continuing — that government troops are still present in and around cities and towns and human-rights violations are extensive and may be increasing.

"There have been worrying episodes of violence by the government, but we have also seen attacks against government forces, troops and installations," he said.

"And there have been a spate of bombings that are really worrying."

The United Nations says more than 9,000 people have been killed in the Syrian conflict so far.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fear on the horizon

"There is profound concern that the country could ... descend into full civil war. And the implications of that are frightening."

Kofi Annan,
international envoy

Women point vivid fingers at a tyrant

Female protesters display the colours of various flags on their hands on Tuesday during a demonstration demanding the trial of former President Ali Abdullah Saleh in Sanaa, Yemen. Saleh kept Yemen in a tight grip during his 33 years of authoritarian rule. His loyalists have been accused of killing protesters in an uprising that swept the country.

HANI MOHAMMED/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Inspector killed near Iran nuke site

A United Nations nuclear inspector from South Korea was killed and a colleague injured in a car crash Tuesday near a reactor site in Iran.

Iran's state TV said the South Korean inspector, who was not wearing a seatbelt, was thrown from the car.

Iran's official IRNA news agency said the inspectors' car overturned near a heavy-water reactor being built in Khondab, about 250 kilometres southwest of Tehran.

Iran has said the reactor, part of the Arak complex, will be used to produce isotopes for medical and industrial uses.

The U.S. and others suspect that spent fuel from the reactors could be reprocessed into plutonium for a nuclear warhead. Iran denies it seeks nuclear weapons.

The IAEA did not name the inspector killed in the crash, but Iran's official IRNA news agency identified him as Seo Ok-Seok from South Korea.

The incident comes ahead of a new round of technical discussions between Tehran and the IAEA to be held in Vienna.

Higher-level negotiations also are planned later this month in Baghdad between envoys from Iran and six world powers, including the United States.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Credit card companies under fire

Dictating terms. Visa, MasterCard issuers set up perverse system: Competition Bureau

Canada's credit card system is a "perverse" place where shoppers who pay with cash or debit subsidize purchases made with credit cards, the Competition Bureau argued Tuesday in its opening salvo against Visa and MasterCard.

That's because merchants pay high fees for accepting credit cards and those costs are passed on to all consumers, the bureau's lead counsel Kent Thomson said in his opening statement to a tribunal hearing whether credit card companies are engaging in anti-competitive behaviour.

Presenting the case for the Competition Bureau, Thomson argued that the restrictive contracts put in place by Visa and MasterCard allow the two credit card companies — which represent 92 per cent of the market — to essentially dictate terms to merchants.

As Thomson pointed out, Visa and MasterCard charged merchants about $5 billion in fees for the privilege of accepting payments by customers using the cards, charges that merchants recoup through higher consumer prices.

Those fees, which range from 1.5 to 3 per cent on purchases, are among the highest in the world, he said, about twice the rate credit card firms charge merchants in Australia, New Zealand and many parts of Europe. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"Most Canadians are unaware of the high cost of fees."

Kent Thomson, the Competition Bureau's lead counsel, on credit card companies engaging in anti-competitive behaviour.

The art of nostalgic advertising

Art Pastusak, left, and his apprentice Liam McWilliams, paint a billboard on a brick wall of a New York building in this April 17 photo. Pastusak, a billboard artist since 1977, took McWilliams, a 2010 graduate of Pratt University, as his apprentice in August 2011. Their nostalgic form of advertising is thriving again in New York City. BEBETO MATTHEWS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canadian broadcasters

Turn down loud ads: Regulators

The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission has given broadcasters until September to ensure both their programs and commercials are transmitted at the same volume. The commission says 2009's international standard for measuring and controlling television signals will apply to minimize fluctuations in loudness between programming and commercials.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 100.17¢ US (-0.53¢)

TSX 11,704.74 (-155.91)

OIL $97.01 US (-93¢)

GOLD $1,604.50 US (-$34.60)

Natural gas: $2.393 (-5.7¢)
Dow Jones: 12,932.09 (-76.44)

Online survey. Smartphone users get what they want

The wait is just about over — the Internet will soon provide instant access to just about everything you want.

Sixty-nine per cent of 2012 Rogers Innovation Report survey respondents said that faster, better access to information and knowledge online that will "make me and my life better" was what they wanted the Internet to provide. Survey results were released Wednesday.

"What people are valuing most is real-time information" said Rob Switzman, senior director, emerging business, Rogers Communications.

The online survey polled just over 1,000 adult Canadians who use a smartphone and are connected to the Internet.

"The Internet is no longer just a place to go.... It's creating new experiences and transforming the way people live. From apps that monitor cholesterol to fridges that automatically order groceries, the Internet is becoming the backbone of all connections in the world around us, and will continue to evolve how we go about our daily lives," said Switzman.

Seventy-two per cent of respondents expect the Internet to play an increasingly important role in the next five years.

One future development that Rogers is excited about, said Switzman: "We will not carry a wallet or keys.... Everything will be in your smart phone." YLVA VAN BUUREN/FOR METRO

Connections

Canadians love being connected so much that 34 per cent of those surveyed said they'd give up liquor and beer before their Internet connection, 31 per cent would go without chocolate, and 27 per cent would give up coffee!

- **98 per cent.** Most surveyed use the Internet to connect with family and friends.

Baby clothes. Pyjamas go high-tech to monitor sleep

Rogers announced Tuesday that it has partnered with U.S.-based biomedical engineering company Exmovere Holdings Inc., for the launch of digital pyjamas, called Exmobaby, later this year.

The machine-washable outfit has embedded sensors and an AAA-battery powered wireless transmitter that beams information to a computer, smartphone or tablet.

The manufacturer claims the product can perform electrocardiogram tests to measure electrical activity in the heart, monitor skin temperature and movement, and detect mood changes.

Expected to be available sometime after October, a starter kit with four outfits is to sell for $149, plus a $9.99 monthly service plan.

Rogers will be the exclusive provider of wireless service for Exmobaby in Canada and will also use some of its media properties to market the product, said Mansell Nelson, vice president of the company's machine-to-machine division.

As a father of two older kids, he can imagine how useful the product might be for today's parents.

"It's the notion of peace of mind. I know there was a debate even with my kids if they should be on their tummy or their backs and all that stuff and if the child turns over now, you get a beep on your smartphone," Nelson says.

"You don't have to wake up every few hours and go and check."

Exmovere says the product sends data from the pyjamas once a minute and emits minimal radiation.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

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MAY THE WILD THINGS KEEP ROARING

JUST SAYIN'
Paul Sullivan
metronews.ca/justsaying

Yesterday, the Wild Things ceased roaring their terrible roar for one minute of silence to mourn the passing of their creator.

Maurice Sendak, author of an entire generation of kids named Max, died at 83.

You may not immediately recognize the name, but if you were ever a kid, you'll remember his book.

Where the Wild Things Are is the story about the kid who was busted for "making mischief" in his wolf costume and sent to bed without his supper. Confined to quarters, his imagination set sail and encountered the Wild Things. They were very scary but he conquered them by staring into their yellow eyes, "not blinking once." The creatures made Max their king and then let the wild rumpus begin.

Leaving a legacy

"Sendak did not care what the officials and the librarians thought. He only cared what the kids thought."

They roared their terrible roars, and gnashed their terrible teeth. Everybody had a great, totally awesome time, but Max got homesick and so he said goodbye to the Wild Things and went home, where his mom was waiting and his supper was still hot.

Oh, that Maurice Sendak.

It's hard to believe, but Where the Wild Things Are is one of the most banned books in America (land of free speech) because back in 1963, when it was published, little kids did not get to be angry and roar their terrible roars, especially at their parents.

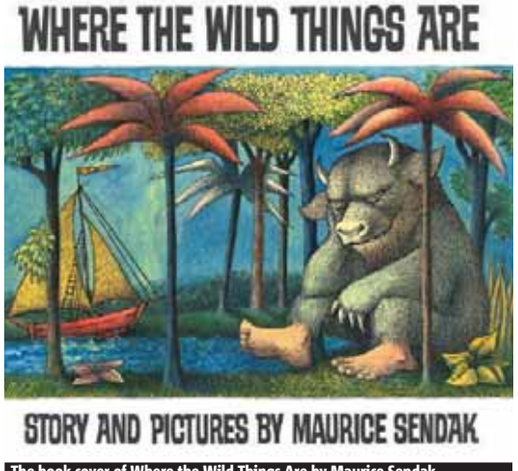
Sendak is responsible for another one of the most banned children's books in America, In the Night Kitchen, in which Mickey floats up from his bed, loses his PJs, ends up in the Night Kitchen and is nearly baked naked into the Morning Bread by three chefs who look like a cross between Oliver Hardy and Hitler.

Whatever. Sendak did not care what the officials and the librarians thought. He only cared what the kids thought: "Kids go for what they enjoy," he said. "They aren't star-chasers and they don't suck up. It's why I like them."

As much as he professed to dislike grown-ups, I think Sendak liked the little kid who lurks within. He brought all us kids — big, little, inner and outer — together at bedtime so we could have one last wild rumpus before the lights went out on another day.

And now the light has gone out forever on Sendak. With him went another piece of a rapidly vanishing spirit — the open-minded, progressive creativity somehow kindled in the second half of the 20th century, despite (or perhaps in defiance of) two world wars.

Fortunately, the creatures of his imagination, the Wild Things, will live on — in our hearts, in our minds and in our terrible roars.



The book cover of Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak.
HARPERCOLLINS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Going to California

TIMOTHY HIATT/GETTY IMAGES

Iconic figure

Marilyn not in Chicago Forever

The sculpture Forever Marilyn, by Seward Johnson, was dismantled and prepared for removal on Tuesday in Pioneer Court in Chicago.

The stainless steel and aluminum sculpture, which stands 26 feet tall and weighs 34,000 pounds, was inspired by Marilyn Monroe's iconic scene in the 1955 movie The Seven Year Itch when she holds her dress down as a gust of wind billows the skirt.

The sculpture, which has been on display in the Windy City since last July, will next be displayed in Palm Springs, Calif.

Dismantling the sculpture turned out to be an event, with about 100 onlookers gathering around to watch.

GETTY

Controversial creation

The statue has also been described as one of the worst public eyesores.

- There was also much controversy among critics because of the siren's exposed legs.
- It was ranked No. 1 on the Virtual Tourist website's top-10 list of worst public art.

Something to talk about

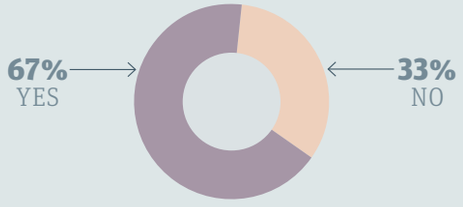
"It is a conversation-starter.... Part of the reason why the artist creates work is for people to think about what they are seeing and what it means to them."

Jenee Castellanos, associate curator of the Sculpture Foundation, which owns Forever Marilyn, to UPI.com

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Should formerly jailed media baron Conrad Black have been allowed to return to Canada?



Twitter

@P_Kellz87: Work days feel longer and longer for every consecutive sunny day #yyc gets. Let me outside please!!! #noworkallplay

@prarthnathakore: Even a small peep hole from my office to see the beautiful #yyc sunshine would be so nice #workinginacloset

@KelseyHip: Damn Calgary, you smell great this time of year #spring #greenage #yyc

@GunoffLabel: Dear #YYC, I am loving this weather! Time to get my tan on!!

@AmberCraig: Is anyone else struggling to stay in the office today? This sunshine is teasing me! #yyc #patio

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2

SCENE

Celebrity saviour

Hoffman helps cardiac arrest victim

A man who had a cardiac arrest while jogging in London's Hyde Park says his life was saved with help from a famous passerby – actor Dustin Hoffman. Sam Dempster said Tuesday that Hoffman waited with him after he collapsed on April 27 until paramedics arrived. On his recovery blog, 27-year-old Dempster thanked medical staff and "my newfound favourite celebrity Dustin Hoffman." Martin Macarthur, the first paramedic on the scene, said: "He (Hoffman) stayed on the scene for the duration of the resuscitation. He was very concerned." Macarthur said the 74-year-old actor told medics, "Great job, guys" after they resuscitated Dempster.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Baron Cohen's typical antics dictate proceedings

The Dictator. Latest alter-ego is most shocking one yet as British star appals and amuses journalists at film's official press conference in New York

HEIDI PATALANO
Metro World News

Sacha Baron Cohen, dressed as his latest alter-ego Admiral General Aladeen, from his upcoming film The Dictator. DAVE ALLOCCA, STARPIX/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The mastermind behind controversial characters Ali G, Borat and Bruno knows how to get the most bang for his buck when it comes to a public appearance.

To promote his upcoming film, The Dictator, (opening May 16) Sacha Baron Cohen arrived at New York's Waldorf Astoria flanked by four short-skirted "guards" to give a press conference to hundreds of journalists from all over the world.

Questions for the conference were pre-approved, but given the clever answers Baron Cohen concocted for them ahead of time, the lack of spontaneity might have been worth it.

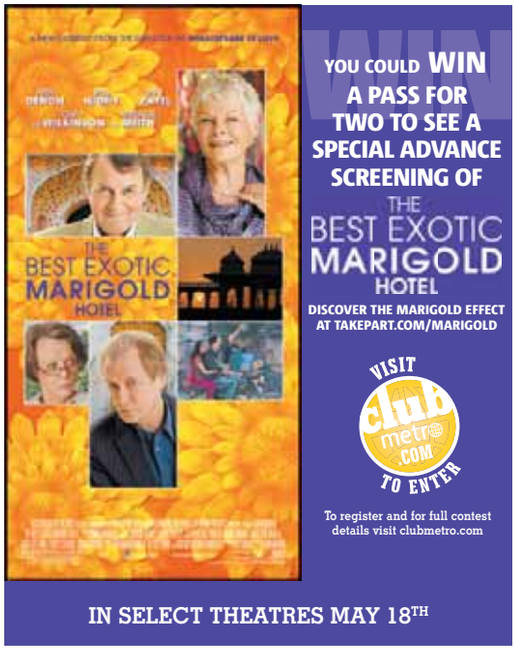
Since in the film Baron Cohen plays Admiral General Aladeen — a misogynistic, racist, anti-Semitic ruler of the impoverished African nation of Wadiya — his in-character answers drew gasps, groans and laughs. Here are a few of his best zingers:

"We dictators aren't all bad. While Western countries continue to ravage our planet's resources, we preserve our land and conserve it by burying thousands of bones in single mass eco-graves."

"On behalf of my dear friend and doubles tennis partner President Assad of Syria, I want to thank the United Nations for their brave inaction over Syria. Thirteen months and still no security council resolution. You guys are amazing. You have done next to nothing for the Syrian people — but remember, you can always do less."

"It has been a tough year. We have lost a lot of good people and I have lost a lot of good friends — Gaddafi, I miss you [looks in the air]. Sorry, Gaddafi, I miss you [looks at the ground]. Also, KJ, Kimmy G, K-Jo, K-Man — you know, Kim Jong.

"And of course you know Chavez died last month... Oh, oops — you did not hear that from me."



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What's Next? We Have It Here.

Fans make Cumberbatch feel right at Holmes

Sherlock screening. Rousing reception for British actor whose star has risen in Hollywood since taking role of famous detective

AMBER RAY
Metro World News

PBS held a contest for the fans of Sherlock — the modern update on Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's eccentric detective — to attend a screening and Q&A with star Benedict Cumberbatch and creator Steven Moffat in honour of the series' second season, premiering tonight.

A whopping 10,000 people entered to win tickets to the event at the 400-seat Florence Gould Hall Theater in Midtown. By all accounts, it sounded like every single one of the hopefuls were in attendance when Cumberbatch entered the room to exuberant screams and applause.

But the smart, self-deprecating actor I met before fans were seated belies the rock-star reception he received on stage. The 35-year-old Brit with a wry sense of humor was candid about how he's managing to stay grounded as his profile rises.

He was careful and thoughtful as we discussed his commanding performance as the world's most famous detective. Most of all, he was gracious — counting his blessings for the opportunities he has been given and thanking, many times over, those fans so enthusiastic to make him a star.

"Have you seen the fans outside?," I enquired. "I've heard that some have come as far as South Korea and that some have been standing in line for 10 hours for tonight's event."

"No, I haven't," came his reply. "I want to go and see them at some point. And if I can, I will, because it's all about them and bringing a wide audience to something — if they are outside, they probably already watched (Season 1) and enjoyed it, and I want to be here to promote the series and make them feel included in something bigger, because it was such an event in the U.K. this year.

"Eleven million (viewers) for most — I think for all the episodes. It became a national obsession for a month. The week after (the finale aired in the U.K.) people were still trying to figure out what the hell happened at the end of episode three and how it happened. So, it's just great. It's nice to be in a watercooler moment, and I'd love for America to experience a bit of that as well."

Join the club

"There's room for all of us. It's like Hamlet."

Benedict Cumberbatch
Commenting on the new famous faces of Arthur Conan Doyle's character.

The British star is definitely having a moment himself, having starred in Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy and War Horse last year and is now filming The Hobbit and the next Star Trek movie — though he can't say much about the last two.

"I can't say anything about them, other than they're both amazing fun to do. I'm just finishing Star Trek — I've got one more day on in San Francisco in two days' time. It's been amazing."

It has been confirmed that Cumberbatch will play villain Khan in the second instalment of the new sci-fi franchise, which is enough to get people excited.

Of course, people are very excited about Sherlock Holmes right now — from the series to the films starring Robert Downey Jr. to the new TV series coming to CBS called Elementary, starring Jonny Lee Miller.

"There's room for all of us. It's like Hamlet — there can be more than one going on in the world at any one time. It's a classic role. I think all of us are fortunate enough to have a varied-enough career so that we're not all just being defined by that one role. So bring it. (Laughs.)

"Just bring it."

Rising star Benedict Cumberbatch plays the odd genius detective in Sherlock.
GETTY IMAGES

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Mad Men. Even the Beatles are crazy for acclaimed television series

It turns out even the Beatles are Mad Men devotees.

Sunday's episode of the acclaimed drama ended with brooding ad man Don Draper alone in his New York apartment listening to Tomorrow Never Knows from the Fab Four's 1966 album Revolver.

Mad Men husband-and-wife writing-producing duo Andre and Maria Jacquemetton say the show's creative team desperately wanted that particular song. "In the case of the Beatles, they're not known for opening up their song catalogue to everyone," Andre Jacquemetton said Monday.

"It just turns out actually that they're huge fans of the show. So in a way, it's 'Who do you get to talk to?'"

Added Maria Jacquemetton: "It was really (Mad Men creator) Matt Weiner making a personal appeal, he really worked very hard to get that particular song in the episode."

In the instalment, entitled Lady Lazarus, Draper's wife Megan (Jessica Pare) announces plans to quit the advertising business to resume pursuit of an acting career. She gives her husband the album after it's revealed he knows woefully little about popular music. "The episode is so much about Don's disappointment over the woman that he loves not wanting to be at his side ... and him sort of feeling out of touch with everything..."

That has been a recurring theme this season as the straitlaced Draper deals with the advent of the psychedelic 1960s. It was a cultural shift touched on in an episode a couple of weeks ago when Draper's colleague, Roger Sterling, went on an acid trip.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jon Hamm plays straitlaced ad man Don Draper on the hit series Mad Men.
RON JAFFE. AMC/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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John Travolta ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Masseuse sues John Travolta for sexual advances

An unnamed man is suing John Travolta for sexual battery and assault, claiming the famous actor tried to have sex with him after hiring him for a massage, according to E! News.

The suit claims Travolta stripped naked, fondled himself and made several sexual advances at the man. It also states Travolta bragged to the plaintiff that he "got where he is now due to sexual favors he had performed when he was in his Welcome Back, Kotter days." According to the suit, Travolta apologized for his advances.

Quoted

"This lawsuit is complete fiction and fabrication. None of the events claimed in the suit ever occurred." Rep for John Travolta

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Prince Harry

Love is still in the air for Prince Harry and former flame Chelsea

Prince Harry can't seem to keep ex-girlfriend Chelsea Davy out of his life, as the two — who split up officially in 2009 — are reportedly seeing each other, according to Us Weekly.

"They're not dating again, but they are seeing each other," a source says. "There's definitely a romantic connection still. They will never be 'just friends' — both of them admit that's impossible."

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Matthew Fox busted for drunk driving

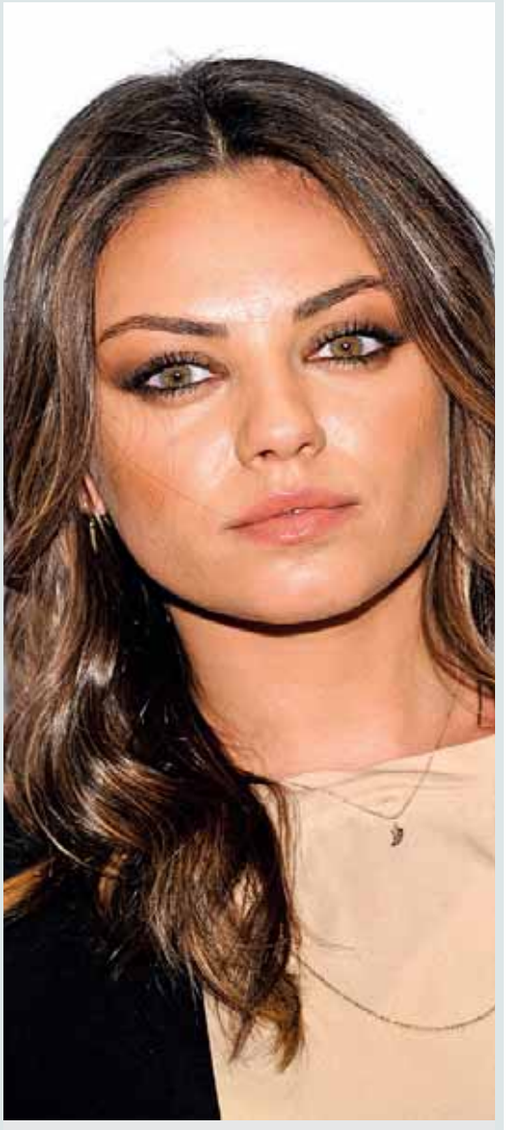
Matthew Fox was arrested for driving under the influence in Oregon earlier this week, but by Hollywood arrest standards he can count himself lucky.

"He didn't take a booking photo because the machine was broken," a source tells TMZ. "He'll have to come back and get that done another day." The former Lost star was reportedly stopped at 3:23 a.m. while on his way to a fast-food restaurant with a passenger in the car. Fox is due in court on June 7.

Lohan dines with Woody

Lindsay Lohan looks to be taking a serious crack at her comeback after being spotted dining with Woody Allen and his wife in New York over the weekend, according to People magazine. The trio enjoyed a meal at Philippe, though it's unclear if the meeting was for business or pleasure.

The Word



Mila Kunis: Accidental superhero?

Monica Weymouth
scene@metronews.ca

On Friday, actress Mila Kunis called police after a man followed her to the gym for the third day in a row. Stuart Dunn, a 27-year-old homeless man, had previously been ordered to keep his distance from Kunis after allegedly breaking into her Los Angeles home in January.

Yesterday, Kunis was dialing 911 again when a man who worked at her home suffered a violent seizure. After he collapsed, she turned his head to the side to prevent choking and offered to ride with him in the ambulance, reports TMZ.

It's just as we suspected: Mila Kunis is an advanced superhuman with lifesaving powers, immune to even the perfect excuse to skip the gym. How else do you think she survived eight years in patterned bell-bottoms opposite Ashton Kutcher?

She just writes the hits...

Sheryl Crow had to ask her audience for help when she forgot the words to her hit Soak Up The Sun during her Saturday show in St. Petersburg, FL. "I'm 50, what can I say! My brain has gone to s—t!" she said after getting back on track.

Which begs the question: what wonderful, merciful rock has Sheryl been hiding under for the past 10 years?

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3 LIFE

Travel in brief

Starwood sets sights on the East

Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide plans to open 40 new hotels in the Middle East and North Africa over the next five years, the hotel operator said Monday. The company currently has nearly 70 high-end hotels in the region, including a recently opened Westin in Abu Dhabi and St. Regis in Qatar. It has a long history in the area, beginning with its opening of a Sheraton in 1966 in Kuwait. "Despite economic and political uncertainty in parts of the region, Starwood continues to see demand for growth of all of our brands across the Middle East and North Africa," Frits van Paasschen, President and CEO of Starwood Hotels & Resorts, said in a statement. Starwood said the region is its second-largest growth market after China.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the web

Old Montana prison offers a chilling glimpse of the past

A walk across the Brooklyn Bridge is one of the best free activities for visitors. MARY ALTAFFER, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

5 Freebies in New York

It's ironic in a city with some of the most expensive hotels and restaurants in the world, many of New York's best attractions are free.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

1 Times Square

A vibrant public space like no other, even better in person than it looks on TV. Plenty of things here to buy, of course, but the lights, sights and people-watching are free, 24 hours a day.

2 High Line

One of the city's newest attractions, the High Line has quickly become a favourite with out-of-towners and locals alike. It's a narrow park built on an old elevated freight railway along 10th Avenue on Manhattan's West Side, from Gansevoort Street, just below 14th Street, to 31st Street. It offers a unique look at the urban landscape from 30 feet above ground, with a peek at adjacent apartments, Hudson River views, vestiges of the neighbourhood's industrial past — meatpacking plants, auto shops - as well as signs of a trendy rebirth: postmodern architecture, art installations and Diane von Furstenburg's DVF building. The northern half is more park-like with plantings, benches and birds.

3 Staten Island Ferry

This humble, utilitarian boat takes commuters between Manhattan and Staten Island 24 hours a day, and it's free. It also offers classic views of the Statue of Liberty, harbour, and skyscraper canyons. Take the No. 1 subway to South Ferry or No. 4 or 5 to Bowling Green to board the boat on the Manhattan side. Be ready for crowds at rush hour and longer waits off-peak.

4 Brooklyn Bridge

When it opened in 1883, the Brooklyn Bridge was an engineering wonder; the longest suspension bridge in the world. It remains a beloved symbol of New York and an aesthetic triumph, with Gothic arches worthy of a cathedral and a delicate filigree of cables whose patterns change with every step along the mile-long walkway. Take the A or C train to High Street, Brooklyn, and walk back to Manhattan for the best skyline views.

5 Central Park

Central Park is the city's communal backyard, a green space where New Yorkers can escape their small apartments to skate, bike, jog, picnic, push a stroller, walk a dog or climb a rock. Stroll the serpentine paths as dappled sunshine filters through the trees, and consider how well the park fulfills the goal of its 19th century designers, Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux, who sought to create the illusion of nature in an urban environment.

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Unravelling the Mayan mystery

Exhibit. Ancient kingdoms and glyph writings explained in new show at Penn Museum in Philadelphia

If the world ends on Dec. 21, 2012 — as some believe the Maya predicted — that leaves plenty of opportunity to see a new exhibit that examines the civilization's ancient kingdoms, intricate calendar systems and current culture.

Experts at the Penn Museum in Philadelphia apparently give little credence to the apocalypse myth, considering the show runs through early 2013.

But they say that the legend, which has been perpetuated in pop culture through disaster movies and sensational tabloid headlines, offers a chance to engage people about ancient and modern Maya society.

Maya 2012: Lords of Time features artifacts excavated from the historic Maya ruins of Copan in Honduras, including burial jewelry, food vessels and ceramic figures.

Honduras President Porfirio Lobo Sosa is scheduled to cut the ribbon when the exhibit opens on Saturday. The show also uses interactive displays to explain the culture's glyph writing and sophisticated timetables.

The upshot is that while it's human nature to seek ancient insight into the current world, people should not interpret the Maya calendar as predicting a cataclysmic event.

"It's just a turn of a cycle," said curator Loa Traxler.

Regarded as one of the world's greatest early societies, the Maya lived for centuries in parts of Mexico and Central America.

Many of their iconic pyramids and other city remnants still stand in places like Copan, where 16 Maya kings ruled for about 400 years.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mayan myth

Armageddon?

As early astronomers, the Maya devised various types of calendars by observing celestial movements.

Their "Long Count" calendar begins in 3114 B.C. and marks time in roughly 394-year periods known as baktuns.

Thirteen was a sacred number for the Maya, and some scholars believe the 13th baktun ends on Dec. 21, 2012. Penn Museum experts say it ends Dec. 23, but that then another calendar cycle will begin — not Armageddon.

Curator Loa Traxler said while it's hard to trace the origin of the apocalypse prophecy, she described it as "a conflation of a lot of different ideas," including Aztec lore and Judeo-Christian end-of-days rhetoric.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A stone figure of the Maize God is on display at the Maya 2012: Lords of Time exhibit. PHOTOS: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Shine the spotlight on rice by making it the star of a hearty dish

This delicate and delicious Salmon and Rice Chowder is elegant enough to serve at an afternoon lunch but also easy enough to whip together for a quick weeknight meal.

Salmon may be substituted for any firm white fish or shrimp to suit different tastes.

1. In large saucepan, melt the butter over medium heat; cook the onion and celery, stirring occasionally, until they are softened, about 5 minutes.

2. Stir in flour; cook, stirring, for 1 minute. Stir in clam juice, water, salt, paprika and pepper; bring to boil over high heat, stirring often.

3. Add salmon, rice and corn and cream; cover and simmer until heated through and fish flakes easily when tested, 3 to 5 minutes. Stir in bit more cream and dill; heat through.

USA RICE FEDERATION, RICEINFO.COM

Ingredients

- 2 tbsp (25 mL) butter
- 1 onion, diced
- 2 stalks of celery, diced
- 2 tbsp (25 mL) all-purpose flour
- 2 bottles (each 236 mL) clam juice
- 3 cups (750 mL) water
- 3/4 tsp (4 mL) salt
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) sweet paprika
- 1/4 tsp (1 mL) pepper
- 1 lb (500 g) boneless skinless salmon fillets, cut into bite-size chunks
- 1 1/2 cups (375 mL) cooked medium- or long-grain brown rice
- 1 cup (250 mL) frozen corn kernels
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) whipping cream
- 3 tbsp (45 mL) chopped fresh dill, parsley, chives or green onions

Salmon and Rice Chowder

This recipe serves six people. RICEINFO.COM

Drink of the Week

Super Citrus 'Rita

1. Salt the rim of a cocktail glass and fill with ice.

2. In a cocktail shaker filled with ice, combine the grapefruit juice, orange juice, lemon juice, lime juice and tequila. Shake vigorously, then strain into the glass.

3. Garnish with a lemon twist.

- Kosher salt
- Juice of 1/2 ruby red grapefruit
- Juice of 1/2 orange
- Juice of 1/2 lemon
- Juice of 1/2 lime
- 1 ounce reposado tequila

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Give new life to leftover rice

Sesame Shiitake Fried Rice

This recipe serves four people. RICEINFO.COM

This is a classic way to use up any leftover cooked rice, whether it's short or long-grain and brown or white rice — just be sure the rice you start with is cold. To make this vegetarian, replace oyster sauce with hoisin sauce.

1. Heat nonstick wok or large skillet over medium-high heat; add half of the oil, swirling to coat. Beat eggs with water; cook in thin layer until set, about 1 minute. Transfer 'omelette' to plate; wipe out wok and return to stovetop over medium-high heat; add remaining oil. Add mushrooms, white parts of green onions, garlic and ginger; stir-fry until lightly browned and mushrooms are softened, 3 to 5 minutes.

2. Stir in rice, peas, soy sauce, oyster sauce and Sriracha sauce (if using). Stir-fry until rice mixture is heated through and fairly dry, 3 or 4 minutes. Roll up and thinly slice omelette; stir into rice mixture.

3. Remove from heat; stir in green parts of green onions, the sesame seeds and the sesame oil.

USA RICE FEDERATION, RICEINFO.COM

Ingredients

- 2 tbsp (25 mL) vegetable oil
- 2 eggs
- 2 tbsp (25 mL) water
- 10 oz (300 g) shiitake mushrooms, stems removed and caps sliced (about 4 cups [1 L])
- 4 green onions (white and green parts separated), thinly sliced
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) grated fresh ginger
- 4 cups (1 L) cooked short- or medium-grain white rice
- 3/4 cup (175 mL) frozen peas
- 2 tbsp (25 mL) sodium-reduced soy sauce
- 2 tbsp (25 mL) oyster sauce
- 1 tsp (5 mL) Sriracha sauce, optional
- 2 tsp (10 mL) toasted sesame seeds
- 2 tsp (10 mL) sesame oil

Two-Tone Rice Salad with Shrimp and Feta

1. In dry skillet, toast almonds over medium heat, stirring often until golden, 3 mins.

2. Transfer almonds to bowl and return skillet to stovetop over medium-high heat; add 1 tbsp (15 mL) of oil. Sauté shrimp, garlic and oregano until shrimp is cooked through, 5 mins. Transfer to bowl.

2. In large bowl, whisk remaining oil, vinegar, mustard, salt and pepper. Add Black Japonica rice and brown rice, lentils, tomatoes and green onions; stirring well to coat.

3. Stir in shrimp mixture, feta and spinach; sprinkle with almonds.

USA RICE FEDERATION, RICEINFO.COM

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup (125 mL) sliced almonds
- 1/4 cup (50 mL) extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 lb (500 g) thawed large shrimp, peeled and deveined
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) dried oregano
- 3 tbsp (45 mL) red wine vinegar
- 2 tbsp (25 mL) grainy or Dijon mustard
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) salt
- 1/4 tsp (1 mL) pepper
- 1 1/2 cups (375 mL) cooked black japonica rice
- 1 1/2 cups (375 mL) cooked long-grain brown rice
- 1 cup (250 mL) cooked brown or green lentils
- 1 cup (250 mL) halved yellow or red cherry tomatoes
- 3 green onions, thinly sliced
- 1 cup (250 mL) crumbled feta cheese
- 3 cups (750 mL) baby spinach

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Workplace Law

More work, same wage?

WORKPLACE LAW
Daniel Lublin
dan@toronto-employmentlawyer.com
Twitter: @danlublin

What happens when an employee is told to perform more work for the same pay? Do employers have the right to expect the same level of performance or do employees have the right to refuse the additional work or demand more compensation?

According to a recent Ontario case, courts will be sympathetic to employees performing two jobs for the price of one.

Kelly Hunt was hired as an assistant at Peterborough, Ontario trucking company Buckham Transport Ltd.

However, she was later asked to take on role of receivables clerk. Hunt thought that this amounted to the work of two jobs, but nonetheless, she said that she would do whatever needed to be done.

Hunt was not given any increase in pay.

Hunt already had a rocky relationship with her supervisor, who felt that she often procrastinated and took too long to finish her work.

Matters deteriorated when Hunt took on the additional accounting duties and complaints about her work landed on the desk of the company's office manager, Leanor Buckham.

Hunt was called to a meeting with Ms. Buckham, who accused Hunt of fumbling some of her work. Hunt was then asked to take on even more work, which she agreed to only if given a raise, but not otherwise.

This was the last straw for Ms. Buckham, who fired Hunt on the spot. Hunt fired back with a lawsuit.

At a recent trial, the court found for Hunt. It determined that it was Hunt's additional duties that caused her to get behind in her work and not any wilful neglect on her part.

Critical of how the company handled the matter from the outset, the judge then concluded that Buckham was to blame for permitting a "failed management system."

Don't start that extra pile of work without talking about pay. ISTOCK

If there were complaints about Hunt's work, Buckham had to properly warn her, the court ruled. Hunt was awarded damages and her legal costs.

The human resource lessons are clear — without appropriate warnings, seldom will courts find that employees knew or should have known that they were underperforming.

Furthermore, employees should beware of assuming additional responsibilities without first seeking an agreement on pay.

Once the new work begins, it will often be too late to negotiate.

DANIEL A. LUBLIN IS A WORKPLACE LAWYER WITH WHITTEN & LUBLIN.

Are you between jobs? Consider volunteering

JULIA WEST
Life@metronews.ca

Don't think that your volunteer work goes unnoticed.

A recent LinkedIn study found that 41 per cent of professionals surveyed consider volunteer work equally as valuable as paid work experience when evaluating candidates.

In addition, 20 per cent of the hiring managers surveyed have made a hiring decision based on a candidate's volunteer work experience.

If you're between jobs or have a schedule that allows you some extra time, volunteering could be the way to beef up that resumé.

"This is clearly a person who stays in the game rather than waiting for the phone to ring," says Juan Morales, managing director at the Miami office of Stanton Chase International.

"It shows initiative and a strong desire to exercise management skills for a charity or nonprofit organization."

If you're lucky — and smart about where you donate your free time — you might just make a professional connection, one that could lead to further employment.

"It's best if you can be strategic when seeking a volunteer opportunity, finding a cause or mission that you're passionate about but that also has a connection to a current or potential work goal," says Chuck Pappalardo, managing director at Trilogy Search NonProfit.

"Volunteering provides an excellent way to network, stay fresh and learn new skills, either in a job seeker's current field or one that he or she is interested in accessing."

How working for free can pay off

"It's best if you can be strategic when seeking a volunteer opportunity, finding a cause or mission that you're passionate about but that also has a connection to a current or potential work goal."

Chuck Pappalardo, managing director at Trilogy Search NonProfit

On tap today: Get ergonomic

Posture and pennies. How being comfortable at your desk is linked to being comfortable in a fragile economy

BRUCE WALSH
Metro World News in Philadelphia

As an ergonomist, Joshua Estrin studies the physical danger of repetitious office movements and attempts to limit that liability wherever possible.

But he can't help but notice greater implications of office space design — or lack of design.

"Comfort is no longer a luxury in the office, it's a necessity, because it's not good enough to just do your job anymore. The pressure on people in this economy is enormous.

"To expect them to do that when they're not in an environment that's physically comfortable is just illogical," says Estrin, who holds an M.S. in behaviour and systems theory from Columbia University and currently works for a Florida consulting firm.

"Making positive changes to a worker's environment goes a long way, especially in an economy where people may not be getting the raises they anticipated."

And an ergonomic workspace doesn't necessarily have to be an expensive one.

"I think we're finally getting to a place where companies understand that it doesn't have to cost thousands of dollars to be ergonomic," says Kevin Costello of US Ergonomics, a major consulting firm.

"We've worked with companies with absolutely no budget for equipment," he notes.

"There are so many simple little adjustments to make: Some old books or stacks of paper can raise monitors to the proper height. It's about improving geometry, not raising costs."

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What happens when your work friend becomes your new boss?

New power dynamic. One minute you're having coffee breaks together, the next minute they're asking you for that report

KAVI GUPPTA
TalentEgg.ca

Feeling jealous of your friend's success? Why not try to learn from them? ISTOCK

When I first started dipping my toes into the advertising world, I worked for a really small start-up that had a staff of about 15 people.

The small size of the company meant that we would spend all of our time together and we naturally became a close-knit group of friends.

During my tenure at this firm, a number of friends and co-workers were promoted to positions that involved me working under them.

I was also put in a position that gave me authority over some of my closest friends and colleagues.

For a while, we struggled to find the appropriate balance as co-workers, friends and "underlings."

Co-worker relationships are interesting. These are people you probably spend 90 per cent of your week with and they're relationships that can be lasting and influential to your career.

But what happens when your co-worker, and friend, gets promoted to a position as your superior? Does the relationship stay the same?

How do you deal with the fact that your closest confidante is now your boss?

Respect the space

This person is obviously someone you may be reporting to on a regular basis. Remember that even though you're friends, you have to respect the position he or she has been given, and act accordingly.

Never think that deadlines and expectations are lowered because your best friend is the boss.

Talk about it

Express your thoughts and develop a strategy for how this new work relationship will function.

Set out guidelines that respect both you and your co-worker's positions, but be flexible in a manner that allows you to still socialize with them.

This is a good way to gauge how you and your friend can interact with each other, especially if hanging out at the local pub and gabbing is common after work.

You may even feel an inkling of jealousy, and that's understandable. But bottling it all up and acting like a jerk to someone who considers you a friend isn't right. The same thing applies if your friend is being cocky or running on a power trip. Lay it all out on the table, express how you feel, but be professional. You are still co-workers.

Learn from them

Your colleague has clearly demonstrated that he or she is capable of moving into a more senior position.

Learn from that. Shadow them and observe how they work and if possible, use them as a mentor to help you advance in your own career.

This is someone who knows you well and can provide you with a wealth of great knowledge and ideas on improving your own work process.

What happens if I get promoted and become a superior to my friends?

Well, first of all, scroll back up and read the first two pointers, and replace your colleague with yourself.

But what about number three? How would that work?

Become the mentor! Reverse the role and guide your friends to do better at work. Teach them what you know and what you did to get to where you are. Friends help each other out, right?

Have you experienced this scenario in your career? Share your thoughts and what you did to make the best of this situation.

Talk it out

"Express your thoughts and develop a strategy for how this new work relationship will function. Set out guidelines that respect both you and your co-worker's positions, but be flexible in a manner that allows you to still socialize with them. This is a good way to gauge how you and your friend can interact with each other, especially if hanging out at the local pub and gabbing is common after work."
Kavi Guppta, Digital strategist

KAVI GUPPTA (@KAVIGUPPTA) IS A DIGITAL STRATEGIST WITH MORE THAN FIVE YEARS OF DIGITAL MARKETING AND ADVERTISING EXPERIENCE.

How to win at the entry level

Starting from the bottom. How absorbing and embracing adversity can help your new career

GREGORY MURRAY
TalentEgg.ca

After a year of working at a comfortable management desk job right out of business school, I was pulled into my boss's office and was told it was time for a "critical experience."

As my boss was speaking, all I remember hearing were the words "working off-shift" and I knew that I was headed to manage the night shift.

Ego-deflating critical experiences might involve relocating to a field office in the middle of nowhere, working on the smallest and most un-sexy brand (like my male friend working on a feminine-hygiene brand), or completing mundane data entry that even a monkey could perform.

These entry-level critical experiences are never the jobs you hear about at university — however, their intention is simple and important: to test your devotion to the company and accelerate your understanding of the business from cocky new grad to competent leader.

While they're not fun, these experiences are highly beneficial and if you want to move up to the executive levels — or at least beyond the entry level — you must embrace and succeed at these critical experiences.

It's often said that those who reach the stratospherically successful plateaus in life and career are those who can handle the quickest pace of change.

I would go a step further and say that they are also the ones who seek out and learn from the most adverse scenarios. It sounds counter-intuitive, but these adversity-craving people realize that adversity is where the growth is and don't shy away from it.

For me, working the night shift meant drastically changing one of the most fundamental and steadfast structures in my life: my routine. While challenging, it was one of the best things for me. Not only was I making executive calls affecting a large team of employees and having a significant impact on costs and budget, but I learned to be adaptable in life and to be more open to change.

Around this time I read that online retailer Zappos (Fortune rated it one of the best corporate cultures in America) would pay $2,000 to any associate who decided to resign. Their philosophy was simple: If you don't love working at Zappos, you aren't going to do a good job.

This was the challenge I posed to myself, and what I challenge you to do when faced with an adverse critical experience: summon the strength to suffer well (ideally, you will eventually be promoted).

Get to a point where even if your company offered you $2,000 for a new position, you would see the benefit in staying and refuse.

Adversity is logarithmic. Now is your time to eat it up to raise your baseline tolerance of it for the even larger critical experiences coming down the pipe. There is always a light at the end of the tunnel — and a promotion not so far away.

GREGORY MURRAY IS A RECENT GRAD WITH A BACHELOR OF COMMERCE WORKING IN BRAND MANAGEMENT IN THE CONSUMER PACKAGED-GOODS INDUSTRY.

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NBA

Hawks hold on against Celtics

Al Horford scored 19 points in his first start since January, and the Atlanta Hawks held on for an 87-86 victory over the Boston Celtics in a thrilling Game 5 of the Eastern Conference playoffs Tuesday night. The Celtics lead the series 3-2 heading back to Boston for Game 6 on Thursday. If the Hawks can steal one on the road, the deciding game would be Saturday in Atlanta.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the web

Prosecutors in the Roger Clemens perjury trial introduced convicted drug dealer and former New York Mets batboy Kirk Radomski on Tuesday, who said he made a shipment for two kits of human growth hormone and "about 50 to 100 needles" to Clemens' home address in 2002. Scan the code for the story.

The Devils celebrate Ilya Kovalchuk's power-play goal on Tuesday night in Philadelphia. BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

Surprise Devils put Flyers' season to bed

NHL. New Jersey books ticket to East finals with victory in Philadelphia

Game 5

Devils	Flyers
3	1

Bryce Salvador, David Clarkson and Ilya Kovalchuk scored goals to lift New Jersey to a 3-1 Game 5 win over the Philadelphia Flyers on Tuesday night, sending the Devils into the Eastern Conference finals for the first time since 2003.

Martin Brodeur was strong in goal and has the Devils back in position to win their fourth Stanley Cup. The Devils await the winner of the New York Rangers-Washington Capitals series. The sixth-seeded Devils scored twice in the first period and became the first East team to win four straight games in these playoffs.

"It was just sticking with the gameplan and doing what it takes to be successful," Devils coach Peter DeBoer said. "Marty made some saves when he needed to, and we held on."

Max Talbot scored for the Flyers as Philadelphia was eliminated in the conference semifinals for the second straight season. The Flyers finished the season without suspended all-star forward Claude Giroux because of his illegal check to the head of New Jersey centre Dainius Zubrus in Game 4.

The Flyers underwent a facelift last summer that saw them trade team captain Mike Richards to the Los Angeles Kings and acquire goalie Ilya Bryzgalov from the Phoenix Coyotes.

The Kings and Coyotes will play in the West finals while the Flyers watch from home.

The Flyers again failed in the post-season to hold a quick lead after Talbot scored in the first.

Bryzgalov had a disheartening end to an erratic first season in Philadelphia. He allowed two YouTube-worthy goals like only he can.

Salvador unleashed a shot from outside the circle that skipped along the ice as if he threw a rock across a pond and sailed high over Bryzgalov for the tying goal.

In a season loaded with head-scratching tallies allowed, Bryzgalov saved the weirdest for the finale. Clarkson's shot on Bryzgalov was deflected off the goalie's stick straight back at the checking forward. Bryzgalov looked behind himself in disbelief after Clarkson knocked it right into the net. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"It's a team game. We play that way, and guys really believe in what we're doing."
Peter DeBoer, Devils head coach.

Basketball

Nash takes on Canada GM job

Steve Nash has dreamed of managing the Canadian men's team since he was a young point guard running its offence.

He didn't envision that day would come so soon.

Canada's biggest basketball star was named general manager of the Canadian men's senior team Tuesday.

Nash, who will be a highly coveted free agent this NBA off-season, said the opportunity to help what might be the most talented group of young players the country has ever produced was one he couldn't pass up.

"It really is a beautiful thing to see our kids and the game grow and the talent continue to reach new heights," Nash said Tuesday in Toronto. "I have a lot of excitement generated for the young kids in this country, many of which are making a name for themselves already, and many of which are coming up behind them." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Steve Nash speaks in Toronto on Tuesday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tennis

In-form Raonic set to face Federer

Canada's Milos Raonic dominated former grand slam finalist David Nalbandian 6-4, 6-4 on Tuesday in the first round of the Madrid Open.

The 21-year-old from Thornhill, Ont., will face Swiss ace Roger Federer in Wednesday's second round.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

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MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	19	11	.633	—
Tampa Bay	19	11	.633	—
Toronto	**16**	**13**	**.552**	**2½**
New York	16	13	.552	2½
Boston	12	17	.414	6½

CENTRAL DIVISION

Cleveland	17	12	.586	—
Detroit	14	14	.500	2½
Chicago	14	17	.452	4
Kansas City	10	19	.345	7
Minnesota	8	21	.276	9

WEST DIVISION

Texas	20	10	.667	—
Oakland	15	14	.517	4½
Seattle	14	17	.452	6½
Los Angeles	13	18	.419	7½

Last night's results
Kansas City 6 Boston 4
Chicago White Sox 5 Cleveland 3 (10 inn.)
Minnesota 5 L.A. Angels 0
Texas 10 Baltimore 3
N.Y. Yankees 5 Tampa Bay 3
Toronto at Oakland
Detroit at Seattle
Monday's results
Seattle 3 Detroit 2
Texas 14 Baltimore 3
L.A. Angels 8 Minnesota 3
Cleveland 8-3, Chicago White Sox 6-2
Boston 11 Kansas City 5
Today's games
All times Eastern
Toronto (Morrow 3-1) at Oakland (McCarthy 2-3), 3:35 p.m.
Chicago White Sox (Peavy 3-1) at Cleveland (J.Gomez 2-1), 7:05 p.m.
Tampa Bay (Niemann 2-3) at N.Y. Yankees (Phelps 0-1), 7:05 p.m.
Texas (Lewis 3-1) at Baltimore (W.Chen 2-0), 7:05 p.m.
Boston (Lester 1-2) at Kansas City (B.Chen 0-4), 8:10 p.m.
L.A. Angels (E.Santana 0-6) at Minnesota (Pavano 2-2), 8:10 p.m.
Detroit (Smyly 1-0) at Seattle (Vargas 3-2), 10:10 p.m.
Tomorrow's games
Tampa Bay at N.Y. Yankees, 7:05 p.m.
Texas at Baltimore, 7:05 p.m.
Cleveland at Boston, 7:10 p.m.
Toronto at Minnesota, 8:10 p.m.
Detroit at Oakland, 10:05 p.m.

AL LEADERS

	G	AB	R	H	Pct.
Jeter NYY	28	121	22	48	.397
Ortiz Bos	28	108	21	41	.380
Hamilton Tex	26	101	21	38	.376
Sweeney Bos	24	87	8	32	.368
ACabrera Cle	22	90	15	32	.356
Konerko CWS	29	105	15	36	.343
Longoria TB	23	82	15	27	.329
MYoung Tex	28	115	13	37	.322
AJackson Det	27	107	19	34	.318
Beltre Tex	25	89	15	28	.315

Runs—Kinsler, Tex, 29; De Aza, Chi, 23; AdJones, Balt, 23; Jeter, NY, 22; Hamilton, Tex, 21; Ortiz, Bos, 21.
RBI—Hamilton, Tex, 28; **Encarnacion, Toronto, 25;** Swisher, NY, 24; ADunn, Chi, 23; Ortiz, Bos, 23; MiCabrera, Det, 22; Cespedes, Oakland, 21; CRoss, Bos, 21; Scott, Tampa Bay, 21.
Hits—Jeter, NY, 48; Ortiz, Bos, 41; Hamilton, Tex, 38; ISuzuki, Sea, 37; MYoung, Texas, 37; Konerko, Chicago, 36.
Last night's games not included

NATIONAL LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	18	11	.621	—
Atlanta	19	12	.613	—
New York	17	13	.567	1½
Miami	15	15	.500	3½
Philadelphia	14	17	.452	5

CENTRAL DIVISION

St. Louis	19	11	.633	—
Cincinnati	15	14	.517	3½
Houston	14	16	.467	5
Pittsburgh	13	16	.448	5½
Milwaukee	13	17	.433	6
Chicago	12	18	.400	7

WEST DIVISION

Los Angeles	19	10	.655	—
San Francisco	14	15	.483	5
Arizona	14	17	.452	6
Colorado	12	16	.429	6½
San Diego	10	20	.333	9½

Last night's results
Houston 3 Miami 2
St. Louis 6 Arizona 1
Atlanta 3 Chicago Cubs 1
Pittsburgh 5 Washington 4
N.Y. Mets 7 Philadelphia 4
Milwaukee 8 Cincinnati 3
Colorado at San Diego
San Francisco at L.A. Dodgers
Monday's results
Cincinnati 6 Milwaukee 1
Miami 4 Houston 0
St. Louis 9 Arizona 6
San Diego 3 Colorado 2
N.Y. Mets 5 Philadelphia 2
Chicago Cubs 5 Atlanta 1
L.A. Dodgers 9 San Francisco 1
Today's games
All times Eastern
Cincinnati (Cueto 4-0) at Milwaukee (Greinke 3-1), 1:10 p.m.
Atlanta (T.Hudson 1-0) at Chicago Cubs (Maholm 3-2), 2:20 p.m.
Colorado (Friedrich 0-0) at San Diego (Bass 1-3), 3:35 p.m.
N.Y. Mets (Gee 2-2) at Philadelphia (Cl.Lee 0-1), 7:05 p.m.
Washington (Detwiler 3-1) at Pittsburgh (Bedard 2-4), 7:05 p.m.
Miami (Jo.Johnson 0-3) at Houston (Harrell 2-2), 8:05 p.m.
St. Louis (Lohse 4-1) at Arizona (Miley 3-0), 9:40 p.m.
San Francisco (Lincecum 2-2) at L.A. Dodgers (Billingsley 2-2), 10:10 p.m.
Tomorrow's game
Washington at Pittsburgh, 7:05 p.m.

NL LEADERS

	G	AB	R	H	Pct.
Kemp LAD	29	101	29	41	.406
LaHair ChC	26	80	14	31	.388
Jay StL	22	84	14	32	.381
DWright NYM	26	91	18	34	.374
Altuve Hou	28	111	18	39	.351
SCastro ChC	29	117	15	41	.350
Furcal StL	29	117	22	40	.342
Bourn Atl	30	126	20	42	.333
Ruiz Phi	26	87	13	28	.322
Lowrie Hou	22	84	13	27	.321

Runs—Kemp, LA, 29; Furcal, StL, 22; CGonzalez, Col, 22; Beltran, StL, 21; MEllis, LA, 21; Freeman, Atl, 21; Uggla, Atl, 21; JUpton, Arz, 21.
RBI—Ethier, LA, 30; Kemp, LA, 27; Freeman, Atl, 26; Freese, StL, 26; CGonzalez, Col, 26.
Hits—Bourn, Atl, 42; SCastro, Chi, 41; Kemp, LA, 41; Furcal, StL, 40; Altuve, Hou, 39.
Last night's games not included

BLUE JAYS STATISTICS

BATTERS	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
Francisco	16	2	5	0	0	.313
Encarnacion	111	17	31	9	25	.279
Lawrie	112	14	31	3	15	.277
Thames	85	10	23	2	4	.271
Johnson	104	20	27	6	15	.260
Escobar	122	16	31	1	12	.254
Mathis	20	6	5	2	5	.250
Arencibia	77	8	18	2	15	.234
Rasmus	100	11	21	3	11	.210
Lind	93	7	18	2	8	.194
Davis	32	10	6	0	4	.188
Bautista	104	16	19	5	15	.183
Vizquel	15	1	2	0	0	.133

PITCHERS	W	L	SV	IP	SO	ERA
Oliver	0	1	0	8.1	9	2.16
Perez	2	1	0	15.2	15	2.30
Morrow	3	1	0	41.2	29	2.38
Alvarez	2	2	0	41.1	12	2.83
Drabek	2	3	0	35.0	28	3.34
Romero	4	0	0	42.0	29	3.64
Frasor	0	0	0	11.0	15	4.09
Villanueva	0	0	0	10.2	8	4.22
Janssen	1	1	0	10.1	11	5.23
Carreno	0	1	0	8.1	5	5.40
Cordero	1	1	2	11.0	8	5.73
Hutchison	1	1	0	21.2	17	6.65
Santos	0	1	2	5.0	4	9.00

Last night's game not included

LACROSSE

NLL PLAYOFFS

DIVISION FINALS

Saturday's games — All times Eastern
EAST DIVISION
Rochester at Toronto, 7 p.m.
WEST DIVISION
Edmonton at Minnesota, 9:30 p.m.

SOCCER

MLS

EASTERN CONFERENCE	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pt
Kansas City	9	7	2	0	12	5	21
D.C.s	11	5	3	3	20	15	18
New York	9	5	3	1	19	14	16
Chicago	7	3	2	2	9	9	11
Montreal	10	3	5	2	11	15	11
New England	9	3	6	0	8	12	9
Houston	6	2	2	2	7	8	8
Columbus	8	2	4	2	6	10	8
Philadelphia	8	2	5	1	5	9	7
Toronto	8	0	8	0	6	18	0

WESTERN CONFERENCE	GP	W	L	T	GF	GA	Pt
San Jose	10	7	2	1	21	11	22
Salt Lake	11	7	3	1	18	12	22
Seattle	8	6	1	1	11	3	19
Vancouver	9	5	2	2	9	7	17
Colorado	10	5	5	0	15	12	15
Dallas	10	3	4	3	10	14	12
Los Angeles	9	3	5	1	11	14	10
Chivas USA	9	3	6	0	5	11	9
Portland	9	2	5	2	9	13	8

Tonight's games — All times Eastern
Houston at New York, 7 p.m.
Salt Lake at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
Seattle at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Saturday's games
Los Angeles at Montreal, 4 p.m.
D.C. at Houston, 4:30 p.m.
Dallas at Columbus, 7:30 p.m.
Vancouver at New England, 7:30 p.m.
Kansas City at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
Salt Lake at Seattle, 10 p.m.
Sunday's games
New York at Philadelphia, 12:30 p.m.
Chivas USA at San Jose, 7 p.m.

NHL PLAYOFFS

STANLEY CUP

CONFERENCE SEMI-FINALS

(Best-of-7 series)
All times Eastern

EASTERN CONFERENCE
N.Y. RANGERS (1) VS. WASHINGTON (7)
(New York leads 3-2)
Monday's result
N.Y. Rangers 3 Washington 2 (OT)
Tonight's game
N.Y. Rangers at Washington, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday's game
x-Washington at N.Y. Rangers, TBA
PHILADELPHIA (5) VS. NEW JERSEY (6)
(New Jersey wins 4-1)
Last night's result
New Jersey 3 Philadelphia 1

WESTERN CONFERENCE
ST. LOUIS (2) VS. LOS ANGELES (8)
(Los Angeles wins 4-0)
PHOENIX (3) VS. NASHVILLE (4)
(Phoenix wins 4-1)
Monday's result
Phoenix 2 Nashville 1
x — if necessary.

HOCKEY

IIHF MEN'S WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

At Helsinki and Stockholm
PRELIMINARY ROUND

GROUP A

	GP	W	OW	OL	L	GF	GA	Pt
Finland	3	3	0	0	0	7	2	9
Canada	**3**	**2**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**14**	**9**	**7**
Switzerland	3	2	0	0	1	10	8	6
U.S.	3	1	1	0	1	14	10	5
Belarus	3	1	0	0	2	5	6	3
Slovakia	3	1	0	0	2	6	6	3
France	3	1	0	0	2	10	17	3
Kazakhstan	3	0	0	0	3	6	14	0

GROUP B

	GP	W	OW	OL	L	GF	GA	Pt
Sweden	3	3	0	0	0	13	6	9
Russia	3	3	0	0	0	11	4	9
Latvia	3	2	0	0	1	10	7	6
Czech Rep.	3	1	1	0	1	7	7	5
Germany	3	1	0	0	2	5	5	3
Italy	3	0	1	0	2	4	11	2
Denmark	3	0	0	1	2	7	12	1
Norway	3	0	0	1	2	6	11	1

Note: 3 points for a regulation win, 2 for an overtime win and 1 for an overtime loss.
Yesterday's results
At Helsinki
Belarus 3 Kazakhstan 2
Finland 5 Switzerland 2
At Stockholm
Latvia 5 Italy 0
Russia 2 Germany 0
Monday's results
At Helsinki
Canada 7 France 2
Slovakia 4 U.S. 2
At Stockholm
Czech Republic 4 Norway 3 (SO)
Sweden 6 Denmark 4
Today's games — All times Eastern
At Helsinki
Slovakia vs. Kazakhstan, 9:15 a.m.
Canada vs. Switzerland, 1:15 p.m.
At Stockholm
Norway vs. Italy, 10:15 a.m.
Sweden vs. Germany, 2:15 p.m.

DEVILS 3, FLYERS 1

First Period
1. Philadelphia, Talbot 4 (Schenn, Briere) 7:18
2. New Jersey, Salvador 2 (Henrique, Kovalchuk) 9:27
3. New Jersey, Clarkson 2, 12:45
Penalty — Schenn Pha (interference) 14:37.
Second Period — No Scoring.
Penalties — Larsson NJ (interference) 2:11, Rinaldo Pha (interference) 12:47, Hartnell Pha (high-sticking) 17:01.
Third Period
4. New Jersey, Kovalchuk 5 (Henrique, Zubrus) 5:00
Penalty — van Riemsdyk Pha (holding) 4:56.
Shots on goal

New Jersey	12	11	7	—30
Philadelphia	11	7	10	—28

Goal — New Jersey: Brodeur (W,8-3-0); Philadelphia: Bryzgalov (L,5-6-0). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — New Jersey: 0-4; Phila: 0-1.
Attendance — 19,818 (19,537) at Philadelphia.

MONDAY

COYOTES 2, PREDATORS 1

First Period — No Scoring.
Penalty — Hanzal Pho (roughing) 17:45.
Second Period
1. Phoenix, Morris 1 (Doan, Vermette) 3:54
2. Phoenix, Hanzal 3 (Chipchura, Langkow) 15:09
Penalties — Josi Nash (interference) 4:19, Hanzal Pho (hooking) 4:52, Doan Pho (cross-checking) 9:41.
Third Period
3. Nashville, C.Wilson 1 (Legwand, Suter) 14:01
Penalty — Doan Pho (holding) 2:38.
Shots on goal

Nashville	10	12	11	—33
Phoenix	5	7	5	—17

Goal — Nashville: Rinne (L,5-5-0); Phoenix: M.Smith (W,8-3-0). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Nashville: 0-4; Phoenix: 0-1.
Att. — 17,182 (17,135) at Glendale, Ariz.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	PT
Giroux, Pha	8	9	17
Briere, Pha	8	4	12
D.Brown, LA	6	5	11
McDonald, StL	5	5	10
B.Richards, NYR	5	5	10
Zajac, NJ	5	5	10
Kovalchuk, NJ	4	6	10
Kopitar, LA	3	7	10
Voracek, Pha	2	8	10
J.Staal, Pgh	6	3	9
Vermette, Phx	5	4	9
Ovechkin, Wash	4	4	8
Parise, NJ	4	4	8
Crosby, Pgh	3	5	8
Gaborik, NYR	3	5	8
Hartnell, Pha	3	5	8
Malkin, Pgh	3	5	8
M.Richards, LA	3	5	8
B.Schenn, Pha	3	5	8
Jagr, Pha	1	7	8
Berglund, StL	3	4	7
Boedker, Phx	3	4	7
Penner, LA	2	5	7
J.Williams, LA	2	5	7
Clarkson, NJ	1	6	7
Stepan, NYR	1	6	7
Yandle, Phx	0	7	7
Bergenheim, Fla	3	3	6
Callahan, NYR	3	3	6
Doan, Phx	3	3	6
Kennedy, Pgh	3	3	6
Legwand, Nash	3	3	6
Zubrus, NJ	3	3	6
Anisimov, NYR	2	4	6
Backstrom, Wash	2	4	6
Carle, Pha	2	4	6
Dupuis, Pgh	2	4	6
Klesla, Phx	2	4	6
Kunitz, Pgh	2	4	6

Last night's game not included

NBA PLAYOFFS

CONFERENCE QUARTER-FINALS

(Best-of-7 series)
All times Eastern

EASTERN CONFERENCE
CHICAGO (1) VS. PHILADELPHIA (8)
(Philadelphia leads 3-2)
Last night's result
Chicago 77 Philadelphia 69
Tomorrow's game
Chicago at Philadelphia, TBA
Saturday's game
x-Philadelphia at Chicago, TBA
MIAMI (2) VS. NEW YORK (7)
(Miami leads 3-1)
Tonight's game
New York at Miami, 7 p.m.
Friday's game
x-Miami at New York, 8 or 8:30 p.m.
Sunday's game
x-New York at Miami, TBA
INDIANA (3) VS. ORLANDO (6)
(Indiana wins 4-1)
Last night's result
Indiana 105 Orlando 87
BOSTON (4) VS. ATLANTA (5)
(Boston leads 3-2)
Last night's result
Atlanta 87 Boston 86
Tomorrow's game
Atlanta at Boston, 6 or 8 p.m.
Saturday's game
x-Boston at Atlanta, TBA

WESTERN CONFERENCE
SAN ANTONIO (1) VS. UTAH (8)
(San Antonio wins 4-0)
Monday's result
San Antonio 87 Utah 81
OKLAHOMA CITY (2) VS. DALLAS (7)
(Oklahoma City wins 4-0)
L.A. LAKERS (3) VS. DENVER (6)
(L.A. Lakers lead 3-1)
Last night's result
Denver at L.A. Lakers
Tomorrow's game
x-L.A. Lakers at Denver, 9 or 10:30 p.m.
Saturday's game
x-Denver at L.A. Lakers, TBA
MEMPHIS (4) VS. L.A. CLIPPERS (5)
(L.A. Clippers lead 3-1)
Monday's result
L.A. Clippers 101 Memphis 97 (OT)
Tonight's game
L.A. Clippers at Memphis, 9:30 p.m.
Friday's game
x-Memphis at L.A. Clippers, 9 or 10:30 p.m.
Sunday's game
x-L.A. Clippers at Memphis, TBA
x — if necessary.

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Sharp looks

In the flesh the BRZ looks flat-out terrific with its properly planted stance, prominently bulging fenders and generously sized windshield. In back, the twin exhaust pipes encased in a blacked-out diffuser are a neat touch.

2013 Subaru BRZ

- **Type.** Two-door, rear-wheel-drive sport coupe.
- **Engine (hp):** 2.0-litre DOHC horizontally opposed four-cylinder (200).
- **Mileage:** L/100 km (city/hwy) 8.3/5.9 (AT).
- **Base Price (incl. destination):** $30,000 (est.).

Lightweight

In this class, one of the BRZ's primary advantages is weight, or rather a lack of it.

At just 1,255 kilograms, the Subaru weighs about 230 kilograms less than the Genesis and anywhere from 300-450 kilograms less than any V6-equipped North American example.

The engine produces 200 horsepower.

Engine

The car's Subaru-based 2.0-litre four-cylinder engine sits lower to the ground than similar powerplants due to its horizontally opposed design (two cylinders fire at a 180-degree angle to the other two). Creating optimal front: rear balance also involved relocating the battery to the back of the engine compartment.

Review. Subaru teams up with Toyota to create the very sporty BRZ and its twin, the FR-S

MALCOLM GUNN
Wheelbase Media

A rear-wheel-drive Subaru? Surely it must be a misprint.

But, no, loyal Subie shoppers are in for a shock when they discover that the new BRZ doesn't drive all four wheels.

And that's not all, folks. Subaru has teamed up with Toyota, which owns a small stake in the company, to create the BRZ and its doppelganger that will be marketed on these shores as the Scion FR-S.

Wow, two separate manufacturers introducing nearly identical models at almost the same time. Who would have believed it possible — and more to the point, why is it happening?

Of course, because it makes sound economic sense. It costs big bucks to bring any brand-new model to market, but it's hard to justify the development costs when that model is a low-volume sports car. Spreading the tooling expenses between two manufacturers allows both to more affordably market a vehicle that creates some enthusiast buzz while also building sales for more mainstream metal.

Toyota is an old hand at making sporty coupes (the Celica, Supra and MR2 are examples) but hasn't headed down that road for years. As for Subaru, its last two-door effort was the 1990s-era SVX, a mildly quirky all-wheel-driver that was priced at the premium end of the scale. This time around, the BRZ faces formidable competition other than from the Scion FR-S. Hyundai's Genesis coupe is a leading contender, but the pricier Nissan 370Z is in the hunt as well.

Overall, the BRZ, which arrives this spring, promises to shake up the sport-coupe world with a balanced and lightweight package that really is as sporty as it looks.

5 DRIVE

Top Gear

Give thieves the boot

The Club is the steering-wheel-locking device that helps prevent vehicle theft, but the company also offers the Tire Claw XL that deters thieves from grabbing your trailer, all-terrain vehicle, or even your daily drive. The Tire Claw XL uses the same principle as those larger "boots" that many city enforcement agencies use to immobilize vehicles, only on a much smaller scale. The manufacturer claims the device is easy to use and will fit just about any wheel width up to 12 inches. Tire Claw XL weighs just eight pounds, has a cove for the lock and comes with three laser-encrypted keys that cannot be copied. It retails for $100 US and can be purchased through many automotive retail and web stores, as well as from the manufacturer at theclub.com. WHEELBASE

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Hybrids, or rather hype-brids?

Auto Know. More and more people are bailing on their hybrids in the U.S. What's going on out there?

TODD D. BURLAGE
Wheelbase Media

Car buyers are fickle, yes, but at least we know that hybrids are the way of the future, right?

As it turns out, those buyers are fickle, too. In a true case of the vehicle being greener, but the grass not necessarily so, U.S. hybrid owners who returned to the new-vehicle market in 2011 bid farewell to their fuel-efficient and eco-friendly rides at a surprisingly high rate.

Even a steady surge in gasoline prices throughout North America did little to spark loyalty among hybrid owners last year.

In a study recently released by the automotive consulting firm R.L. Polk, research found that almost two out of three hybrid owners (65 per cent) who bought a new car in 2011 went back to a gasoline-powered model. The troubling trend for the hybrid market, which sucks up billions in automaker development dollars, is based on Polk's analysis of U.S. registration data and purchasing trends for 75,000 former hybrid owners who bought a new vehicle last year.

The Polk study doesn't offer any specifics or reasons for the lack of loyalty from hybrid owners, which is obviously key to understanding the issue. Popular speculation, however, is that the premium price for hybrid technology, countered by improving fuel-efficiency in gas engines — whether real or perceived — as well as the ever-increasing number of hot new choices in the compact segment, are steering drivers back to the tried-and-true fuel-only models.

"The lineup of alternate-drive vehicles and their premium price points just aren't appealing enough to consumers to give the (hybrid) segment the momentum it once anticipated," said Lacy Plache, chief economist of the automotive information agency Edmunds.com, in a press release from Polk.

"Especially given the growing strength of fuel economy among compact and mid-size competitors."

Repurchasing rates vary across different hybrid models, with the highest loyalty levels belonging to the Toyota Prius, of course, the most popular hybrid in North America with about half of the overall segment sales.

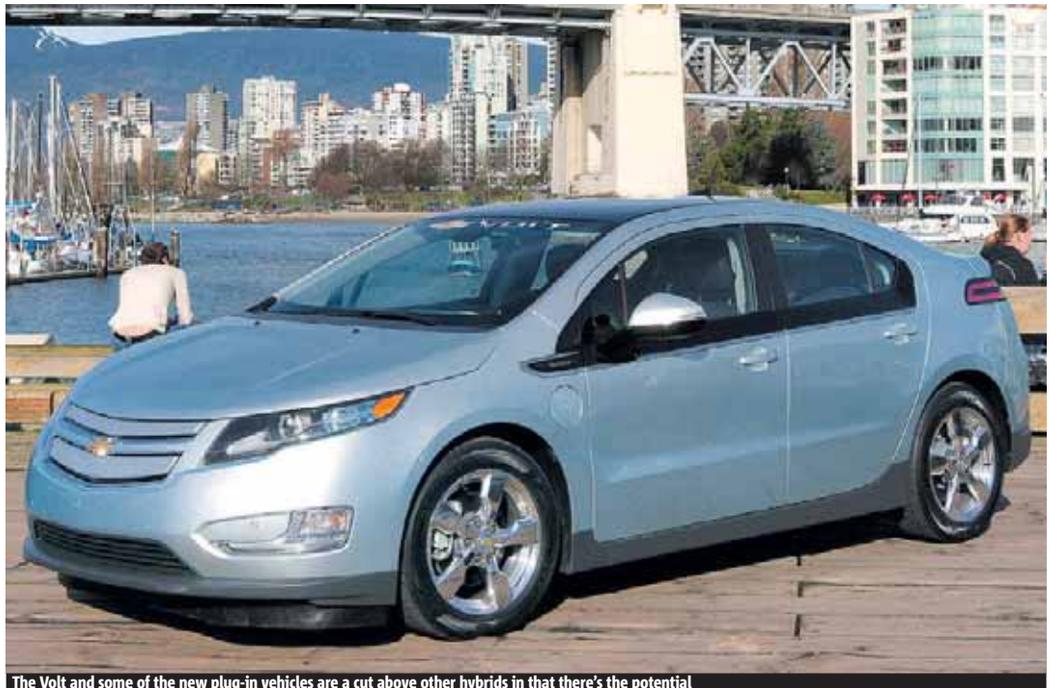
In fact, according to Polk's analysis, if the Prius were removed from the repurchase equation, less that one-quarter of previous U.S. hybrid owners chose another hybrid as their new-vehicle purchase in 2011.

That said; overall hybrid sales in the United States have still doubled since 2007, even if all drivers aren't coming back for seconds. In fact, sales of the Chevrolet Volt doubled in March when compared to a month earlier.

"Having a hybrid in the product lineup can certainly give a brand a competitive edge when it comes to attracting new customers," said Brad Smith, director of loyalty management practice for Polk.

But hybrid manufacturers have come under increased scrutiny as more data about the real-world fuel-consumption figures becomes available for these combo electric-gas-powered vehicles. Your mileage may vary? Indeed.

California woman Heather Peters won a small-claims case against Honda in February when the court found the automaker misled her to believe her 2006 Civic hybrid could get 50 mpg. She said she gets about 30 mpg. The ruling sparked a firestorm of negative media for Honda and the entire hybrid market.



The Volt and some of the new plug-in vehicles are a cut above other hybrids in that there's the potential to use no gasoline at all. Buyers pay a premium for this, however. Is it worth it? ALL PHOTOS WHEELBASE MEDIA

According to a study by Polk, hybrid pricing is still in the way of the segment gaining any real momentum. Still, Toyota's Prius brand has the highest retention of buyers.

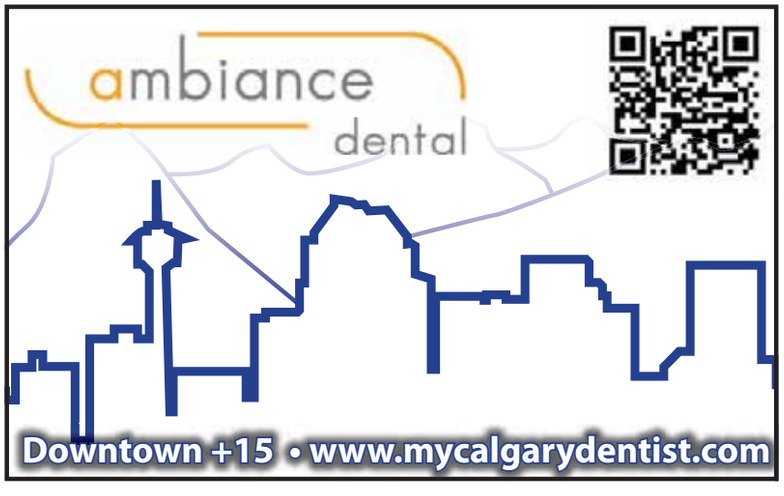
With fuel consumption that can widely vary depending on how a hybrid is driven, where it is driven and in what climate, unfamiliar technology, uncertain resale values and generally higher up-front cost of hybrid vehicles, Plache said several obstacles "will need to be overcome" before sales and loyalty levels increase in the hybrid segment.

Surprisingly, volatile gas prices during the past four years — which ranged from about $2 to $4.50 in the United States — had a negligible impact on hybrid loyalty.

And with recent research showing that it often takes several years worth of fuel savings to offset the premium paid for hybrid vehicles, reluctance is still in air.

"The repurchase rates of hybrid vehicles are an indication that consumers are continuing to seek alternative solutions to high fuel prices," Smith said.

"We haven't landed on a definitive answer as far as what the technology is going to be that customers will embrace."



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Kid-friendly RX-8 offered looks, performance

Second Gear.
2004 to 2011
Mazda RX-8

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
Drive@metronews.ca

For sports car enthusiasts with kids, the Mazda RX-8 made plenty of sense, given its rare 'suicide' doors, striking looks and track-ready performance. Sharp-as-a-tack handling, instant precise steering and killer looks were all part of the package, which included a usable and accessible backseat.

Features included Bose audio, heated leather seating, navigation, automatic climate control, an intelligent key system and plenty more.

JUSTIN PRITCHARD/FOR METRO

Common Issues

Check the level and condition of the RX-8's engine oil before your test drive. Be sure the seller was fond of frequent, high-quality oil changes.

A lumpy idle or 'misfire' may be the result of an overheating issue related to the ignition coils. If you experience this issue on a test drive, be sure to have the vehicle inspected to confirm.

Given the RX-8's unique engine, only a rotary-trained Mazda mechanic should inspect the vehicle ahead of your purchase.

While the car is in the air, the mechanic can also check for fluid leaks, excessive rust, and the condition of the tires and brakes.

Engine

Horsepower from the 1.3-litre 'RENESIS' rotary engine was rated at 238 with the six-speed manual, and between 200 and 212 with the four-speed automatic. This was replaced with a six-speed automatic later in the RX-8's life.

What Owners Like

Performance, looks, a screaming engine note, manual shifter quality and overall responsiveness are perhaps the most highly-rated aspects reported by RX-8 owners. Many appreciate the rear doors and relatively easy rear-seat access.

What Owners Dislike

Limited headroom, visibility and fuel consumption are among the RX-8's most common complaints.

Verdict

With a clean bill of health from your Mazda mechanic, a well-maintained RX-8 should provide relatively trouble-free access to a unique and sporty driving experience.

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Matte goes mainstream and multicoloured

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AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

Shiny finishes are so last century. Looking at this "dulled-up" Hyundai Veloster, how can you not agree? CONTRIBUTED

Meet Matte. He might be just a form of paint finish, and a dull one at that, but he's strangely popular at the moment.

In another era, Matte was hanging around the hot-rod gang. Back then, hot-rodders who placed more priority on 'go' than 'show' were prone to paint their cars with flat black primer.

And of course, Matte has always been simpatico with military types. Those guys prefer their land, air and navy machines to be hard to spot and unreflective, just as much as they like them to be nasty and all-conquering.

So naturally, Matte has developed into a great choice for modern bikes and cars that want or need to evoke certain anti-social tendencies.

But we seem to have entered a new era of Matte.

Manufactures like BMW, Mercedes-Benz, Ferrari and Hyundai, all now offer Matte and/or semi-gloss finishes on selected vehicles.

Might be a chicken-and-egg kind of thing, but Matte's popularity has certainly risen since two different technological developments took hold: The introduction of high-quality vinyl wraps and the move to use clear-coat paint.

For around $3,000, you can have your Porsche 911 completely wrapped in Matte black vinyl wrap. And when you tire of that look, you can simply take the wrap off, and go back to your former, original-colour lifestyle.

"Today's paints are all base coat/clear coat," says Sam Piercey, manager of Budd's Collision, which services many dealerships and brands within the Budd dealer group of Oakville, Ont.

"The clear coat contains the Matte finish."

So a Matte or semi-gloss finish can be applied to various base colours — it doesn't have to be stealth-bomber grey, or hot-rod black. Matte can be enjoyed in various shades now, and in lifestyles that have nothing to do with the iconic outcasts who pioneered the look.

For potential Matte connoisseurs, however, Piercey offers a caution: "It's a real high-maintenance paint… It's a real hassle to get oil and grease off it… You have to clean it without polishing and without powerful chemicals, otherwise you get a shine on that area."

Matte finishes are also more expensive, both as an original paint from the factory, and as a respray.

According to custom-paint specialist Joe Fernandez of Daredevil Kustoms (Innisfil, Ont.), Matte finishes require more expensive materials (an extra clear coat with Matte agents), but also require far more attention in the spray booth.

"You have to be super-meticulous," says Fernandez. He notes that with a regular clear coat, when there are slight imperfections in the dry paint, they are colour-sanded and then polished — and then disappear. You don't have that polishing option with Matte.

At Daredevil, they add two clear coats: a regular one, which is subsequently sanded and polished; and then the Matte one, which can't be sanded or polished. All this adds up to about a $1,250 premium over a regular Daredevil paint job.

But added costs and maintenance issues aside, if you're aching for something interesting and different, and you've had it with shiny and glossy — then it just might be time to get all "dulled" up.

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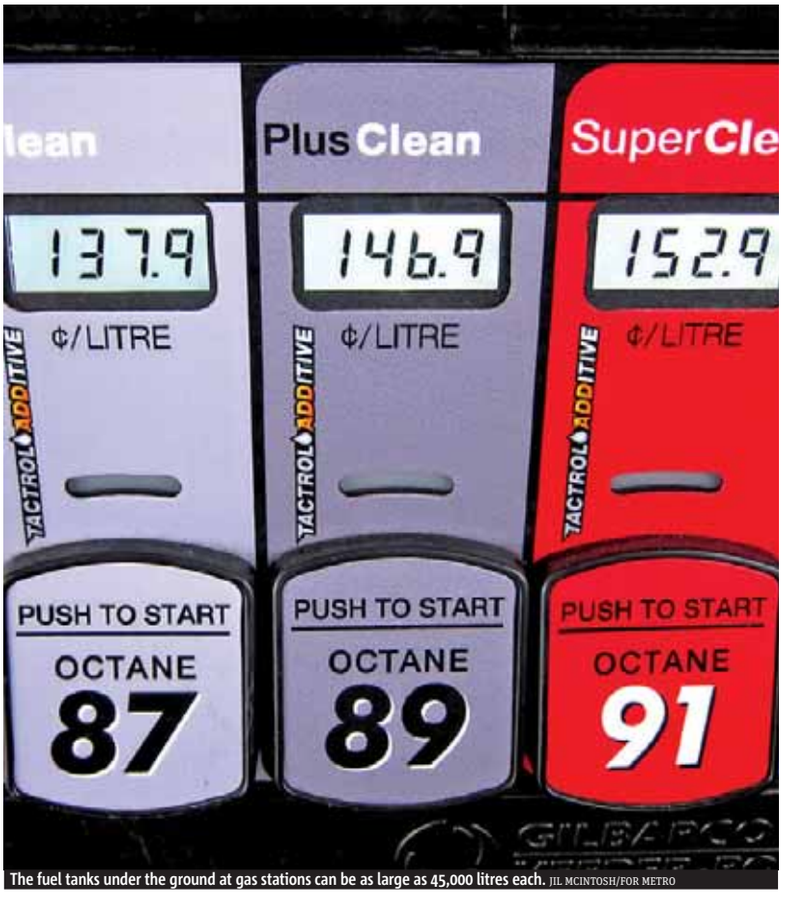

The fuel tanks under the ground at gas stations can be as large as 45,000 litres each. JIL MCINTOSH/FOR METRO

One pump, three grades: How does it know?

Driving Force. A look at the inner-workings of gas stations reveals some noteworthy information

JIL MCINTOSH
Drive@metronews.ca

So you're at the gas station, filling up your car. You have a choice of regular, mid-grade, or premium fuel. Three buttons — but there's only one fuel nozzle. How does the pump dispense three grades of fuel through a single hose?

"There are two fuel tanks in the ground," says Glenn Phillips, service technician for Albert's Gas Station Maintenance in Cambridge, Ont. "It blends at the top of the pump."

You'll find that at most stations, the octane ratings — the "grades" of gasoline — are 87, 89, and 91. Buried under the ground are huge tanks, as large as 45,000 litres each, which hold 87- and 91-octane fuel. The gas pump has two meters. If you select 87-octane, the pump turns on that meter and dispenses from the lower-octane tank. Conversely, if you want 91-octane, that meter turns on and dispenses from that tank.

Should you want 89-octane mid-grade, the pump blends the two 50/50.

"On top of the meter, there's a 'pulser,' and it counts the volume of fuel you're getting," Phillips says.

"If you buy 20 litres of mid-grade, you're getting 10 litres of regular and 10 of super. If it sees that you're getting more regular than super, it'll open and close valves to compensate and adjust. It's constantly monitoring to the blend ratio."

The fuel nozzle has either a small hole in it, or a piece of metal on it, which reacts when fuel backs up against it in your vehicle's filler neck, indicating that the tank is full. The pump then automatically shuts off. You should always operate the nozzle yourself and never use the gas cap or other object to hold it open, Phillips says.

"If there's a spill, you can actually be held liable for the cleanup," he says. "Think twice before you use something to hold it open."

The pump compensates for temperature, "so every litre that comes out is calibrated as if the temperature was 15 C," Phillips says.

"In the summer, you actually get a little less gas, and in the winter you get a little more, but the difference is pennies, and it only makes a difference if you're buying millions of litres a year."

The pumps are calibrated once a year. And as for the price of gas? "Please don't take it out on the attendants," Phillips says. "It's really not their fault."

Did you know?

- The pump hose is always full and contains about half a litre of fuel, so the first 500 millilitres will be whatever grade the last customer purchased.
- Fuel pumps contain filters to screen out any dirt. Even so, avoid buying gas right after the fuel tanker has filled the underground tanks, since it stirs up any sediment on the bottom.

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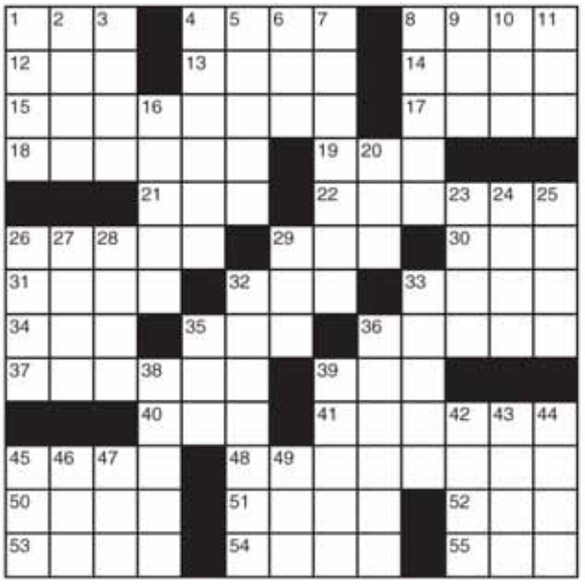
Crossword

Across

1 Track circuit
4 Schleps
8 Weak, as an excuse
12 Noshed
13 Freshly
14 "American —"
15 Estival pest
17 Meat —
18 Quantity
19 Actress Thompson
21 Lemieux milieu
22 Grasshopper's cousin
26 Stock
29 Stiller or Stein
30 — generis
31 Theater box
32 Oppositionist
33 Requirement
34 The whole enchilada
35 Dance syllable
36 Not wan
37 Scarab, for one
39 Allow
40 Black-and-white diver
41 Be there
45 Philadelphia attraction
48 Hive dweller
50 Bread spread
51 Exam format
52 Scepter topper
53 Portent
54 Wedding-dress accessory
55 Whether or —

Down

1 Tibetan monk
2 Minuscule bit
3 Mexican money
4 Set off
5 Become one
6 Comprehend
7 Distended
8 Purple shade
9 Commotion
10 Extinct bird of New Zealand
11 Ernie of Keebler ads
16 Rather
20 A long time
23 Secondhand
24 Sought restitution
25 Spruced up
26 Spill the beans
27 Characterization
28 Lecherous look
29 Feathery neckwear
32 "The Cherry Orchard" writer
33 Eccentric
35 Actor Gulager
36 Narrate again
38 Claw
39 Veranda
42 Black, in poetry
43 Pianist Peter
44 Creditor's concern
45 Greet the villain
46 Freddy's street
47 Appomattox VIP
49 Raw rock



Sudoku

8		6			7		2	
				6	5			1
7				2		3		
		5					1	
		1	4		6	9		
	6					2		
		4		3				2
5			2	7				
	9		8			1		7

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's Sudoku

8	4	1	3	7	2	5	9	6
9	7	3	8	5	6	2	4	1
6	5	2	1	9	4	7	3	8
1	9	5	6	4	8	3	2	7
7	8	6	5	2	3	4	1	9
2	3	4	9	1	7	8	6	5
3	1	7	4	6	5	9	8	2
5	6	8	2	3	9	1	7	4
4	2	9	7	8	1	6	5	3

Yesterday's Crossword

Cryptoquip

How to play

This is a substitution cipher where one letter stands for another. Eg: If X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle.

OXVY B RPT'U OBKJEYR ABYV EU DZZ UFBKK CZW XEF DZ PUV HWZHVWKT, E WVAJZY XV'U PYLVWUDBCCVL.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF SOMEONE REPLACED MR. GEHRIG ON THE DIAMOND, YOU COULD SAY THAT HE PLAYED IN LIEU OF LOU.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals O

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Weather

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
MAX: 18° MIN: 11°	MAX: 7° MIN: 1°	MAX: 13° MIN: -2°

BT BREAKFAST TELEVISION

ANDREW SCHULTZ
WEATHER SPECIALIST
"I get to spread the word on how your day, evening or weekend will shape up with our ever-changing weather here in Alberta".
WEEKDAYS 5:30 AM

Horoscope

Aries | March 21 - April 20. A money problem will disappear as if by magic. Most likely it was never a real problem in the first place.

Taurus | April 21 - May 21. It's good to let friends know what it is you want out of life. If there is anything they can do to make it happen, they won't hesitate to offer.

Gemini | May 22 - June 20. Something you once feared so much no longer seems to worry you and that's marvelous news.

Cancer | June 21 - July 22. You may have found it difficult recently to defend your beliefs but Mercury's change of signs today will help you to express yourself.

Leo | July 23 - Aug. 22. Do you have what it takes to compete at the highest level? Of course you do and the current cosmic set-up will smooth your path to success.

Virgo | Aug. 23 - Sept. 22. For the past few weeks you have been trying hard, without success, to live up to other people's expectations. Time to be yourself again.

Libra | Sept. 23 - Oct. 22. You will learn something to your advantage, something hugely interesting. Don't let everyone in on the news.

Scorpio | Oct. 23 - Nov. 21. You'll find it easier today to put your thoughts into words. It'll have a positive effect on all your relationships.

Sagittarius | Nov. 22 - Dec. 21. It will occur to you today that there are easier ways to deal with your workload. Use those ideas.

Capricorn | Dec. 22 - Jan 20. You've been working hard. Forget about work for a while. Focus on the lighter side of life – and on romance.

Aquarius | Jan. 21 - Feb 18. You will be in a relaxed mood today, especially in the domestic sphere where you cannot be bothered to argue with loved ones.

Pisces | Feb. 19 - March 20. Starting today, you will start to think clearly again and your mind will overflow with good ideas.

SALLY BROMPTON

Caption Contest

"What do you mean you couldn't find any good pics for the blue screen? This pose is epic!"
Colleen

WILFREDO LEE·BAL/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Win!

You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.

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